

Rodeo At The Ranch

Elguera and Gelfand rip it up at Hester #3

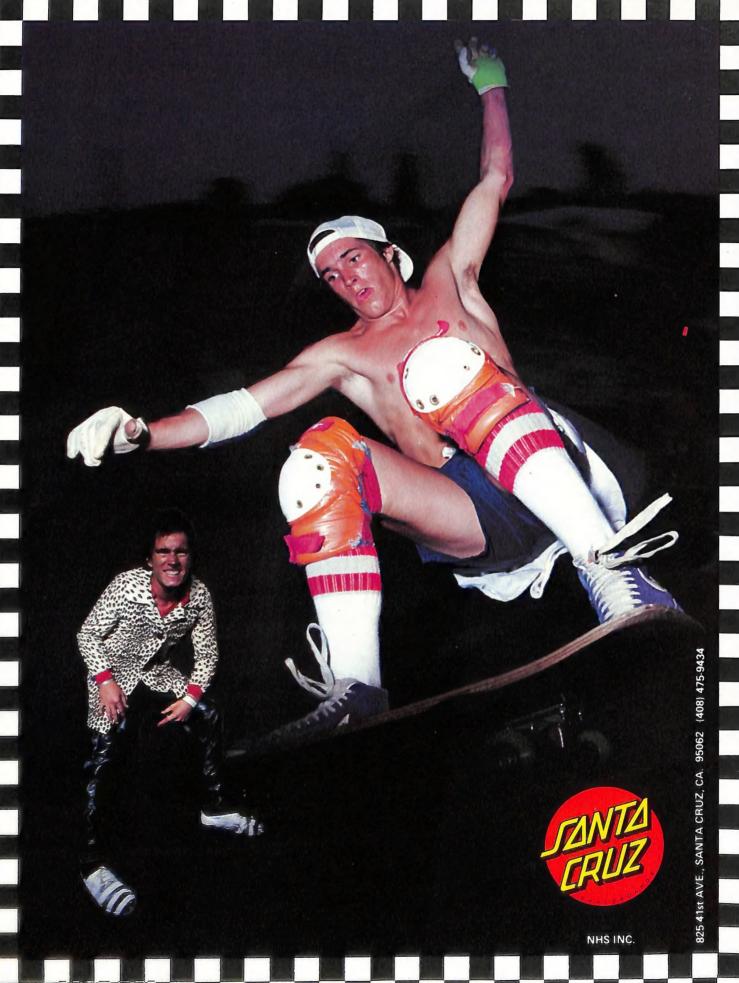
Travels With The King

Sessioning in Switzerland

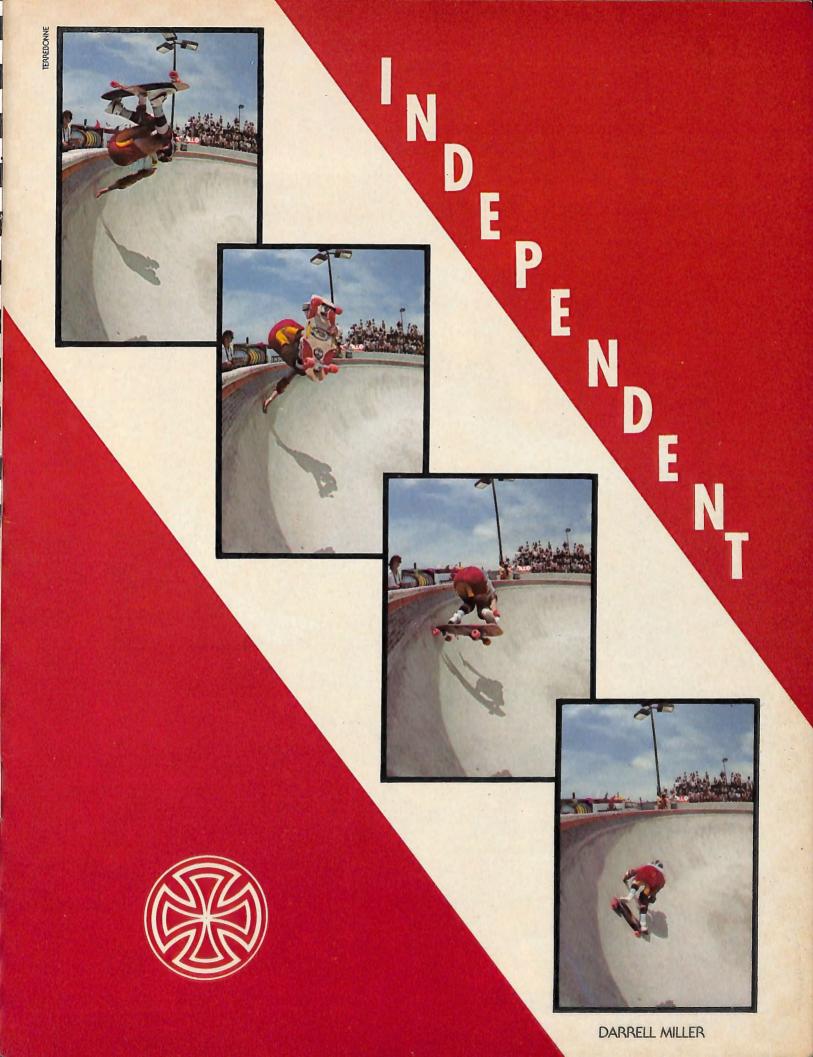
Oceanside Nationals

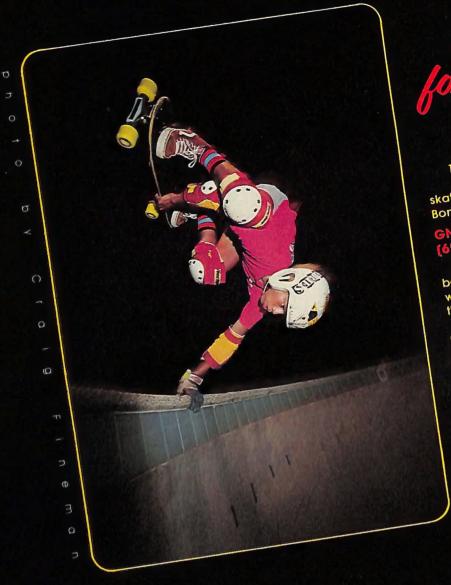
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Landing Gear for the Bones Brigade

Top competitor in this year's Hester Series, RAY "BONES" RODRIGUEZ,
skates on his own model board from Powell, with Bones wheels (of course), and Tracker's new

NARLY SIXTRACKS—ST-1500 (6" between wheels)

When describing trucks, axle length alone can be misleading, so Tracker chose to measure the width of the axle casting itself, which is between

If you're real observant, you'll notice that, unlike the other Tracker models, the triangular the wheels. face of the SIXTRACK doesn't extend to the ends of the axle casting. You'll also notice that the ends of the axle casting are tapered. These subtle changes make it possible to use inset and center bearing wheels, as well as

functioning beautifully with Copers. The SIXTRACK's unique geometry offers the smooth and dependable Tracker teel, but we've made it quicker and even more responsive, with an increased turning ability.

Best of all, the SIXTRACK barely weighs more than the EXTRACK (Tracker's 5" model). We have carefully slimmed the castings down, watching to preserve the STRENGTH and DURABILITY inherent in the Tracker

All this works together to make the Tracker SIXTRACK the strong, light, high design. performance wide truck you've been waiting for.



VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4 NOVEMBER 1979

FEATURES

- HESTER #3 AT DEL MAR 24
 - . D. David Morin
- 32 PEPSI TEAM '79
 - Wink Roberts
- TRAVELS WITH THE KING: PART II
 - · Benito S.
- INTERVIEW: JAY ADAMS 50
 - John Smythe
- MELLOW CAT 59
 - Ted Richards
- OCEANSIDE NATIONALS 61
 - Ellen Oneal and Layne Oaks

PHOTOGRAPHY

FOCUS 39

DEPARTMENTS

- SKATE TIPS: One and a half slide
 - Stacy Peralta
- SKATÉ SAFE: Street Cruisin' 21 and Safety
 - Curtis Hesselgrave
 ROLL 'N ROCK
- 22
 - Corky Carroll
- COMPÉTITION BRIEFS 36
- 66 WHO'S HOT
- OFF THE WALL 72
- 79 **EXTRA**

Cover: Mickie Alba, current point leader in the Hester Series, achieves extreme backside air during one of his highly energized routines at the Del Mar Pro: For cover story, see pp 24-31. Photo: Cassimus.



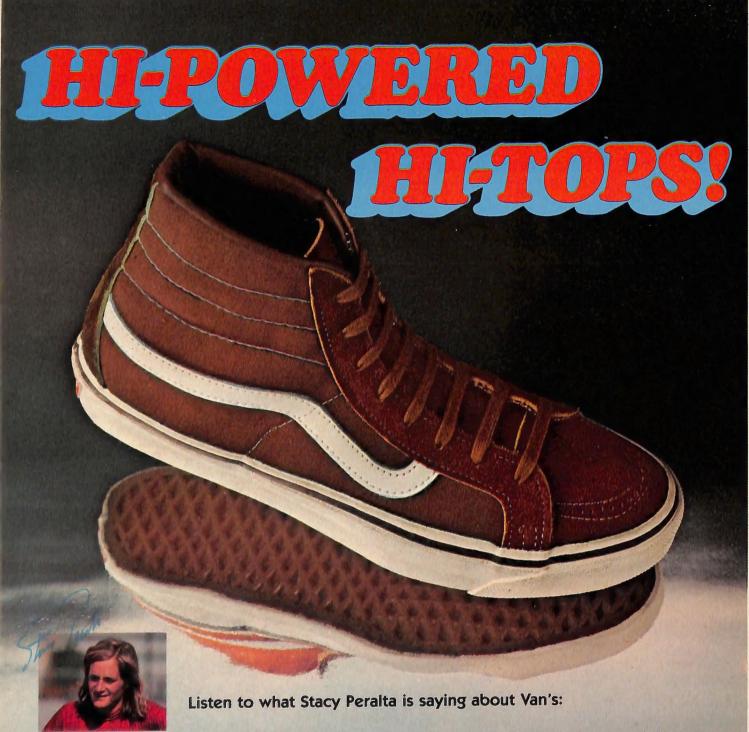












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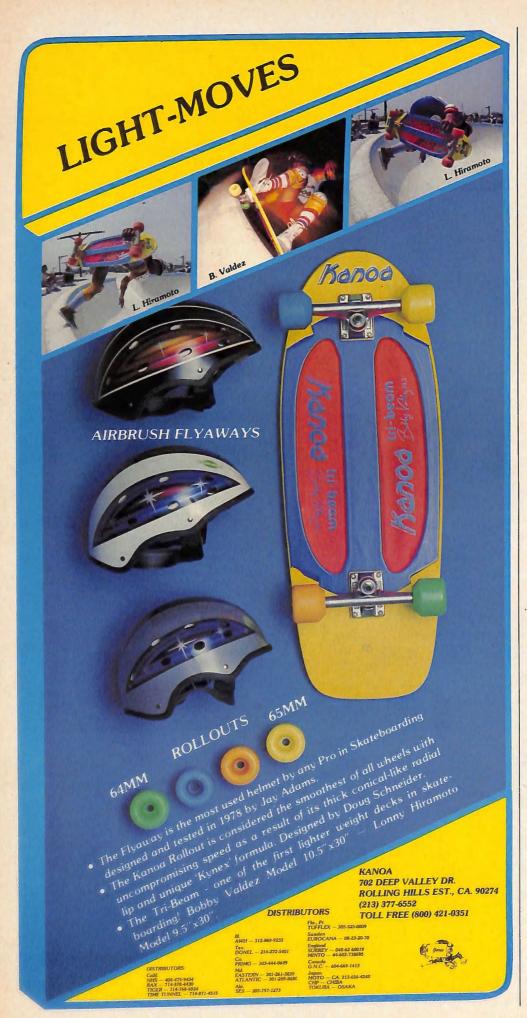
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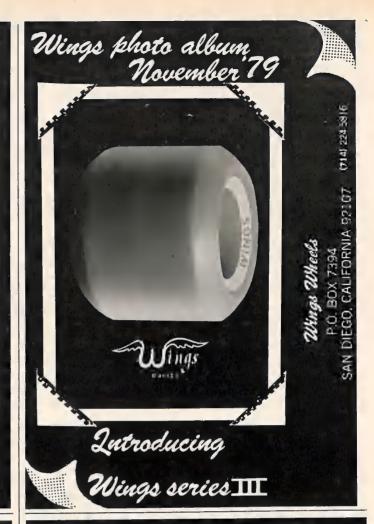
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SKATE TIPS

Number Forty

ONE AND A HALF (or 540°) SLIDE

by Stacy Peralta

PREFACE

If you're serious about learning this trick . . .

First — Look at these pictures and get familiar with the foot and arm placement, body position, etc.

Second — Read this tip carefully until you understand it.

Third — Go out and try it on a banked wall. If you don't learn it on a banked wall and you go straight to vertical, it'll take you longer.

METHOD

Start off your run with medium speed kickturns and widen your stance so your front foot placement is closer to the nose than normal. Make sure you have a really stable feeling on your board.

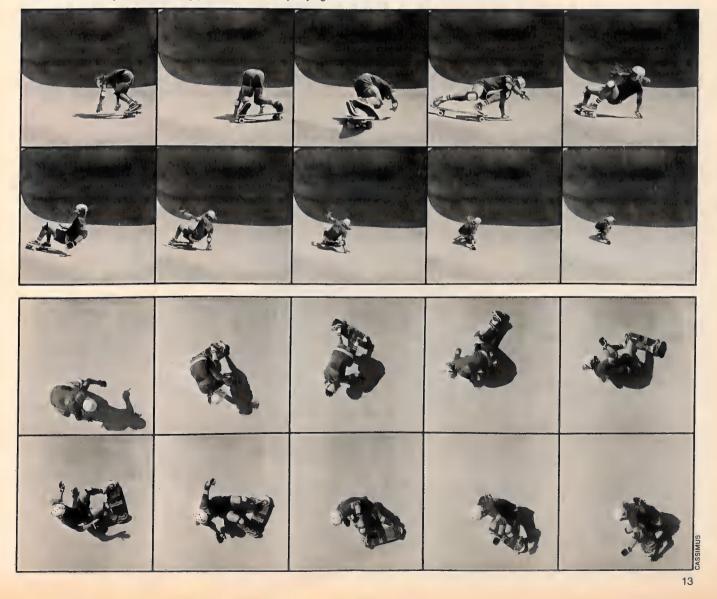
As you're approaching the wall to start the move, bend your torso a little, and also bend your legs slightly. The farther you go up the wall, the more you want to bend over.

As you approach the edge be careful not to go so high as to knock your board over the top. (It's a good idea to learn well below the lip.)

When you finally find your spot exactly where you are going to bring the back end around, start to put weight on your front foot and let your

back foot slide the tail around. (Note: To facilitate this movement, hang the toe of your back foot over the edge of the tail to pull the tail around.) When your tail starts to slide, put your hands on the wall to act as pivot points (this is very important). When your board gets straight up and down on the wall, it gets really tricky, because that is the point when your body starts to turn around and come down along with your board. You still have to have weight on your front foot and a lot of body weight should be on your outside arm, which is planted on the wall. As the board is coming down, let it make somewhat of a sliding arc so that it ends up under you (you are almost sitting on top of it). At that point you can straighten out the board, push off the wall with your other hand, and get ready for the other side.

"Note foot and arm placement, body position, . . ." Stacy, laying out full 1-1/2's in the tub bowl at Marina.



Africk andrew

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KATE PÛ!

PHOTO ANNUAL

I have just gotten the SKATEBOARDER PHOTO ANNUAL#1 and I definitely recommend it to all people who get stoked readin' SKATEBOARDER Mag. I thought the picture of Alva jumpin' the Nukeland pipes was extra rad. Don't get me wrong, I hate Alva's guts, but you have to admit he still has the moves. I would also like to say that the main reason why the Photo Annual is so great is because there were only four advertisements and the better part of it was color photos.

Bonker II

Doylestown, Pa.

Being involved in both skating and photography, I really appreciated your Photo Annual.

Keith Howlett

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

DOWNHILL

It's about time guyz. Glad to see ya got away from bowlriding and back to some good ol' downhill. The article on the Laguna Seca Races (Vol. 6, No. 2) was one of the raddest va ever printed. How about more in the near future? P.S. What year and model is D. David's Porsche?

R.C.

Hillside, N.J.

"Watch for coverage of John Hutson's Capitola race (Sept. 8), and Laguna Seca II (Oct. 21). Regarding David's street machine, it's fully a tricked-out '71 914-6." . . . Ed.

I'm coming to you from the high desert. Yah, we have some hot skaters out here too. Including my girlfriend Jennie. As a competitor in the 1978 Signal Hill Speed Run, I get into downhill pretty much. Although me and a few friends also blaze on the vert too. What I really want to say is man, you have definitely got the most outrageous mag there is. Except for one thing: you don't put enough downhill in it. Hey, I really get into all the hot pictures of the vert jammin'. But downhill cranks too. Let's see some hot pictures of some rad downhill racing! Hey, there's some hills here too.

Tim Sanders Hesperia, California

This is Sam Pucino Jr. coming to you from Signal Hill, California, home of the quick and the slow. And it is very apparent that this type of skateboarding is just too heavy for all you lames who did nothing to help promote the safety and sanity of such an important feat. Serious business. I mean, the world speed record for

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skateboarding! Now that is something!!

But this is what it is, a few punks with a few bucks, trying to out spend the next guy and then a few jive Skateboarder Mag reporters, who, as I said earlier, did nothing but talk bad about an exciting, fast, colorful, and a very gutsy competition, and ruined the whole thing.

Now since the press is totally responsible for the blood and guts image of mighty Hill Street, it is up to the press to apologize, straighten out the slander, and get all the so-called fast people together and break that 59.92 mph record that Silver Streak holds (piloted by Roger Williams) in a safe and sane competition. How about the readers? Did they think Signal Hill was all that bad? I really want to know P.S. Please print this.

Sam Pucino Jr.

Carson, California

"It is our opinion that due to an obvious lack of safety precautions and the resulting accidents to competitors and spectators alike, the Signal Hill Speed Race killed itself. We're glad to see safer downhill contests, like Laguna Seca, being put on." . . . Ed.

GOOD PROMO

I'd just like to inform you guys at Skate Central that I did my part to promote skateboarding outside of the U.S. When the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary came to our house to see my dad for some reason, the subject of skateboarding came up. They said that some guy was going to build a skatepark over there and asked me if I knew anything about it. I gave him your September '78 SKATEBOARDER with the skatepark construction symposium and some other mags of yours with good pics of pools and stuff. I haven't heard anything yet, but I'll keep you informed.

P.B.

Bethesda (B-Town), Maryland

INTERVIEWS

I like your magazine very much. I especially like your interviews every month, but why do you always have men skateboarders? Can't you have female skaters too?

Elaine Lowry Medina, Ohio

"Watch for an interview with SKATEBOARDER's "Female Skateboarder of the Year," Vicki Vickers, next issue." . . . Ed.

DOG BOWL CONTEST

I thought the results from the Gyro Dog Bowl Pro were really great. As a girl, I think the girls are showing the men what we can really do. Also, I'd say Bert LaMar is going to the top very quickly - 2nd place is good! Ohio doesn't have many parks but my friends and I are getting pretty rad on the bowls.



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Who knows, maybe we'll be in the SKATEBOARDER Mag someday. Great magazine!

M & J Hayes Youngstown, Ohio

STREET RIDING

I live in Pittsburgh, Pa., and have a gripe about your mag. It seems like all you have anymore is bowl and poolriding. Now don't get me wrong, bowl and pools are rad, but most kids can't do it because of location. So have an article on street riding. Also, Mellow Cat is No. 1.

P.S. I live 20 minutes from the New Wave skatepark, and we've got some hot kids, so check us out. Skate Rad,

Dan Buzdor

Bethel Park, Pa.

"In showing curb grinds, ramp riding, freestyle, and slalom, we're attempting to get back to the basic, everyday skating experience." . . . Ed.

How about giving some suggestions in your mag for skaters who are parkless? I recently moved from a town with a half decent park to one with nothing. I'm sure it would benefit plenty of people, including myself.

Devo man.

"We suggest you and your friends pool funds and energies and build a good skate ramp (see article, Vol. 5#9)." . . . Ed.

PERSONAL PLEA

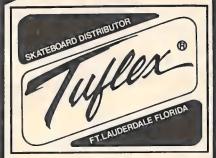
This letter is for those skaters whose parents are against their skating:

My friend, John Miller, and I are very much into skating. About the only real skating we do is on a wooden half-pipe. I really didn't realize that skating was such a blast until a year ago. And during that year my brother, father and especially my mother were totally against my enthusiasm for the sport. I could tolerate it for a year but tonight my mother just broke my tolerance. I've had my eye set on a new skate for a long time. It's not expensive and I'm financing it. Tonight while figuring the cost, my mother questioned me as to what I was doing. I told her and she shouted, "When are you going to grow up?" Lasked, "Because I want a new skateboard I'm immature?" She answered yes.

If the parents can't see that their child has found an interest and is pursuing it to the fullest, then the parents must think that their child is not capable of handling his/her own affairs. This shows that the parents have no confidence in their child's decisions. My mother said, "skateboarding has no future." What does she think I'm gonna do? — Runaway to California and turn pro? She tells me to play tennis, it's a sociable sport. And skateboarding

isn't? I have made numerous friends





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skating. So many I can't keep count! The whole point is that we are doing something that is fun for us, and good for our physical being and selfconfidence. Like that guy named Eddie Clark said in Skate Post (Vol. 6, No. 1), "I feel like someone when I skate." Anyone reading this letter with their parents present, let them read it too. Parents, I leave you with a question to ponder: which would you rather have your child do, skateboarding and enjoying himself, building character and physical condition; or smoke dope. take drugs and cause trouble, which can lead to more serious problems? P.S. The mag is great and Brad Bowman is #1. Todd Roberson

FUNNY FOTO

FUNNY FUIO

Hey, all you people working the Funny Foto, what's goin' on? I've been sending in guesses for almost a year now and only made a couple wrong guesses. And I haven't won yet. Now this doesn't upset me. What really gets me mad is the fact that the 1st day I get my issue, I look at the Funny Foto and put my guess in the mail. Then when my next issue comes I usually find that there is no winner. (Already my postcard was sent out a month ago.) So I fill out a second postcard with a different guess and send that out immediately. Then when the issue after that comes I look at the Funny Foto and find out that my 1st guess was right. Now c'mon, I mean, my postcard is out for 2 months, how long does it take you to get it? Also this has happened to me more than a few times — I'm bummed! Heavily!

P.S. I'll bet this has happened to more than just 1 person.

Frank Knox Colonia, N.J.

"The problem is that the magazine is usually printed about the same time as the preceding issue hits the newsstands. Therefore, correct answers usually show up two issues after the picture is published." . . . Ed.

HOLLYDAY

I just read in Vol. 6, No. 2 September issue in the Skate Post that Wally Hollyday was currently involved in a skatepark project in the Midwest. This is great news to me since I live in the midwest and only know of one skatepark in my area. Could you please give me more information about the park, such as where it is at, and when will it open? Thank you!

Todd Graham Forest City, Iowa

"Apple Skateboard Park is located at 5100 Sinclair Rd., Columbus, Ohio (ph 614-846-0634), and it reportedly is hot! It should be open by this printing." . . . Ed. (3)

SKATE SAFE

STREET CRUISIN' AND SAFETY

by Curtis Hesselgrave

Street skating has always been a major part of skateboarding. Skateboarding started in the streets and continues to exist there. The average skater going street riding grabs his board, runs out the door and skates away. But he is forgetting something critical!

For some reason, what's considered a necessity for park riding or even skating a local ramp, ain't cool for street cruisin'. But as statistics and probably your own experience has shown you, the biggest hazards to your skating are on the road. Obviously, safety equipment is part of the answer.

Perhaps a small history of safety gear in skateboarding would serve to illustrate why the average skater is blowing it by not using safety gear when he is street riding.

In the 60's, when skateboarding first became widely popular, no one seemed to give a thought to safety equipment, except maybe during the '65 Championships when competitors were required to wear helmets. Yet, during that period there was one type of injury to the elbow, caused by the slippery clay wheels, that was so common that the A.M.A. dubbed it "skateboarder's elbow." The result was that after a few years, many injuries and resulting bad publicity and legislation, people gave up on skateboard riding.

The first time I noticed regular use of protective clothing was in Laguna Beach in 1969. At that time Laguna had a small group of experienced riders that frequently rode the great downhill runs in that town. These riders always took particular care to wear long pants, tennis shoes, long-sleeved shirts and leather work gloves to protect themselves from occasional encounters with the pavement. By reports, this group experienced very few injuries; this was especially noteworthy considering that everyone was using clay wheels.

In 1973 when Frank Nasworthy introduced the urethane wheel, things changed radically. The new wheels gripped the pavement so much better that many of the injuries that had been caused by the slippery clay wheels were eliminated; but a whole new crop sprang up. Skaters who had been around since the 60's and were still into it, being older and wiser now,



Longtime battle scarred Curt Kimbel, now wears basic safety gear as standard operating procedure. Street slalom, La Costa.

immediately saw the need for some type of safety consciousness to forestall another bad public reaction. Elbow and knee pads were borrowed from basketball and wrestling, and leather work gloves were also used. Clinics were given to spread the word on safety.

In 1974 Mike Rector, an artist-skateboarder from Northern California, wanted to protect his hands for his work, so he invented the first prototype of his Palm Pad glove. Another early safety innovator was Mike Williams who introduced the first plastic capped knee and elbow pads (borrowed from motorcycle motocross) during the early La Costa racing days. With the advent of skateboard parks in 1976, safety gear became mandatory and the development of specialized safety equipment designed for skateboarding accelerated rapidly.

Now this is a nice story, but what is

the point? It's just this: people have come to regard safety gear as being necessary only in skateparks; in the streets you rarely see riders using it, and this is a big mistake. Aside from the hazards presented by other vehicles, street surfaces are often dirty and inconsistent — far from anything intended specifically for skateboarding.

Just as those wise skaters in Laguna Beach 10 years ago saw that you need to protect yourself when you're riding in the streets, so the same is true today. You may not need as much gear as you need in the parks, but you should at least be using the basics: gloves, elbow pads and knee pads; and the Laguna boys had a good idea with their long shirts and pants.

So a word to the wise: street riding can be a blast if the right precautions are taken. Wear your gear and keep skating.

ROLL'H POCK

by Corky Carroll

Well, finally we've got a new Led Zeppelin album, aahooo! Also word has just reached us here at Skate Central that Fleetwood Mac has just completed mixing a new effort titled "Tusk," which will be out soon. Speaking of new albums, the Eagles' new one is due out in Japan in September, so we will probably get it soon thereafter.

I keep getting all this mail that says I'm a nerd for not including so and so in the top ten. Hey fatheads! — I don't make it up — you do! The top ten is based totally on mail response. If you got a favorite, mail it in.

Entries have been rolling in for our "Music to Skate By" contest. It's not too late to enter, so crank up the o'l cassette machine and lay down some licks! You may even win a prize — miracles happen.

"IN THROUGH THE OUT DOOR" Led Zeppelin

Swan Song SS16002

22

I know this is one you have all been waiting for, seeing as how this band is almost always at the top of our chart!

Side one kicks off with a heavy metal extravaganza "In the Evening" and

then gets down to some solid rock 'n roll with "South Bound Saurez." I love this kind of stuff and have to get up and do a few soul arches across the room every time I hear it! Whew and huzza. Then comes "Fool in the Rain" which starts as a kind of popish ballad, but later slips into a sort of calypso fast rock. Finally to round out the side is a ragtime rocker titled "Hot Dog," reminiscent of Jerry Lee Lewis, though with electric guitar instead of piano!

Side two opens with "Carousel Ambra" which is in the classic Zeppelin groove. It's done in epic fashion. "All My Love" brings back the same feel as their great "Stairway to Heaven." And finally there is a beautiful ballad called "I'm Gonna Crawl" complete with lavish strings.

Yeah, it's definitely a good record!

"MILLION MILE REFLECTIONS" The Charlie Daniels Band

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One of the hottest southern rockers known to man, of Charlie has kicked out another real smoker. "Million Mile Reflections" is packed full of hotness from beginning to end.

The hit single, "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," is included and truly shows off the fiddle work that Charlie Daniels is known for, but it's the

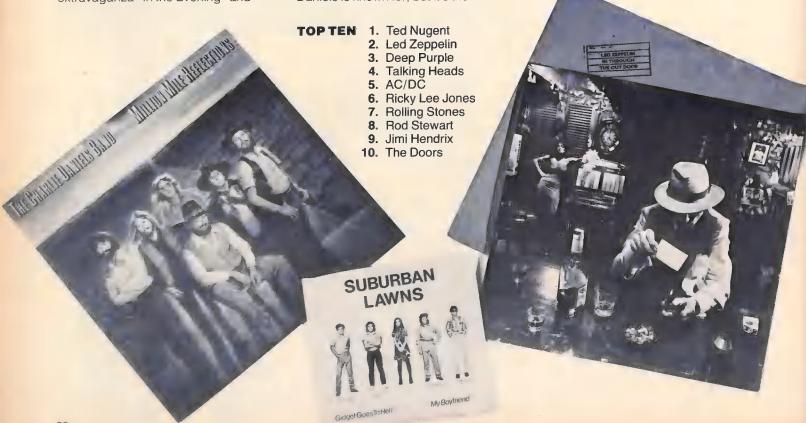
high-powered rockin' that the rest of the record is full of that gives me reason to recommend it to you high-powered skate rockers.

"Blue Star" could be a hit single as far as I'm concerned; it's got the juice! "Reflections" is truly majestic and "Jitterbug" cooks! The whole thing gets down and you ought to be able to get into it — whether you're skating or not!

"SUBURBAN LAWNS" Suburban Lawns

Suburban Ind. Records

One side is "Gidget Goes to Hell." It's truly and irrevocably awful. The title cracks me up but that's it. The other side is "My Boyfriend." This one is better and is almost tolerable. What I want to know is why are people doing this kind of stuff without any originality? So much sounds the same that all of it tends to suffer. The lyrics aren't funny and don't have anything to say and the music is not unique. Is this what "Punk" is all about? I say nay! (Ed. note: Benito says nay to this review. According to our premier punk, "While this ain't their best stuff, a lot of the Lawn's music is original — even clever! And their club act, highlighted by the satanic expressions and squeaky soprano of Sue Tissue, is truly amazing!")



BONES BRIGADE CLASSOF 1979











Stev Caballe Scott Foss A Gelfa Jami Go









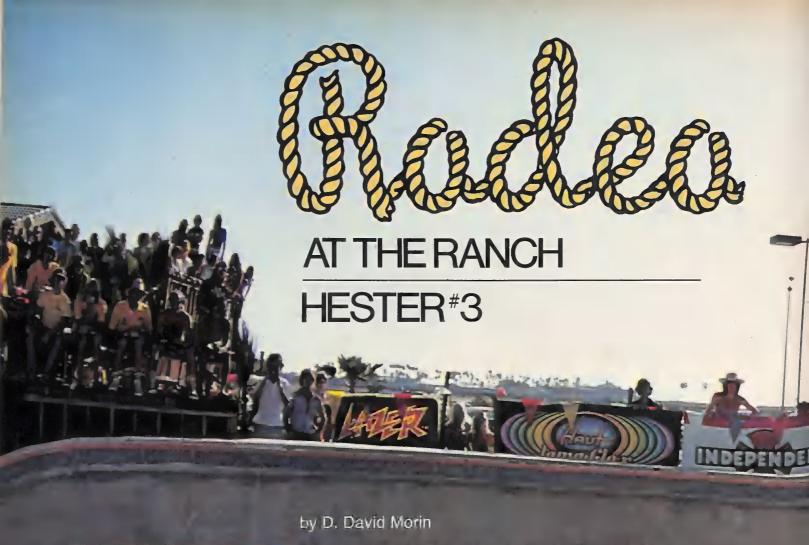


Mike McGill
Stace I alta
Ray Bo Rodrigue
Tim Story gs

The Bones Brigade... proven winners in contests from coast to coast. The Powell-Peralta line... the most influential equipment around. Find out why things we pioneered last year are the standards of the industry today. Beamers," Widetail Beamers, "Britelites." Rodriguez" models and Bones 64x64mm. 64x57mm, 64x50mm wheels. Investigate the future now.



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○ vim all ricuter *2 s premier event — the uprincipe event (event) is a Cer Mar Bikato Raixit.

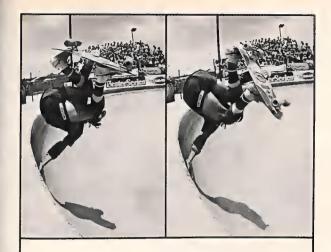
From the serenity and beauty of Boulder, Colorado, the Hester Series moved back to the West Coast to beautiful Del Mar, "where the turi minets the sunt," famous home of race horses and skategogs. "Bac H" Herry was telling gold the reins of his third 1979 pro bow, the Del Mar Open, to Curis Hesselgrave, who has long been associated with the back itself. The Dul Mar Skate Flanch, Hank was wise in this regard, as it's not everyday you get a chance to tap into the CBS Sports Spectacular film crew. Hester "I was to go down in cellificid history (or at least a spot in the CBS film lith any waiting for fair time"), and Henry and the prospect. The latter group were also performing for Series points, and to some extent, the Del Mar grouples. Seems everybody was there

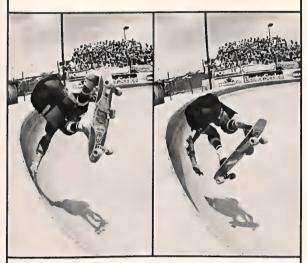
The 5-day Open consisted of 2 days of amateur half pipe and 250.

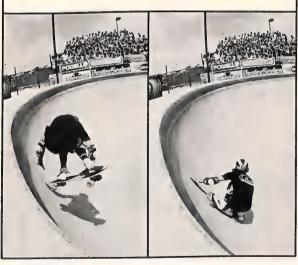
I hay of rollerskating pool and freestyle competition, and 2 days of professional bank's alom, half pipe, pool, and surfing. That's right, stirling in a skateboard contest. There is always a lot of talk in prolekating circles (also in amateur or class for that matter) of surf prowess of potential greats and of proven greats. So when 360. Sportswear sponsored a surflevent inforced a lot of skaters to put up or shuf-up. The contest was open to compessants and to officials, and it was a fairly even match. In two days of 2-3 foot surflat 15th Street lover thirty entries competed for the first place prize of a round this ticket to Hawaii. The strongest town represented was G.8.5, with "Fibre Fals" Mointyre heading an amphibious group consisting of Stove Cathey. Frank Blood, and Tony Jetton. Pineapple was seen bobbing in the water, but when the contest started he was not to be found in any of the nexts. The same was true of Dogtown constituents. Jim Muir and Jimmy Plumer. No explanations were given. They must have poon there to hoot for Jay Adams, who had a pretty good showing. Surfley had labeted the contest a grudge match between George Orton.











(Above)
Darrell Miller emerged one of the top crowd
pleasers due to long boardslide attempts
and successful "360 aerials" (pictured).
(Left)

Brad Bowman, winner of the halfpipe event, also pulled off some winning moves in the pool. Brad amid an early-release frontside air.

(self-proclaimed surf greeat), and Steve Olson (the Huntington Beach surf nazi). But the officials proved it wasn't

young man's sport as Dale Dobson, Dave "Pappy" Andrews, and none other than "Bad H" Hester himself (all of them over 25 years young) took the 2nd through 4th places. First place and the trip to Hawaii did, however, go to Steve "Bulky" Olson, of the recently formed Santa Cruz Surf & Skate Team. Olson blazed heavily during both days of competition, wrapping up the event with authority. Olson forced a lot of the other pros to eat their words, as there wasn't much more talk of relative surfing superiority the rest of the weekend.

Meanwhile, back at the Ranch, the first skating event of the Open was about to get under way. Banak slalom was first up and everybody gave it a crack. Although there wasn't much doubt slalom aces Kimball and Evans would probably dominate, the Open had a special \$3,000 prize for the overall winner of the slalom, half-pipe, and pool. That explained why so many 10" boards with conical wheels were found on the slalom course with less than spectacular times. Only four skaters would advance to the finals on Sunday to be filmed by CBS, so there wasn't much room for error. The four finalists who emerged were Curt Kimball, Steve Evans (both of the Hobie Racing Team), Tom Merrick and Steve Olson (for the Santa Cruz Racing Team). In front of the CBS lens on Sunday the lead switched hands between Kimball and Evans for first place, but Kimball eventually sewed it up. Olson, qualifying 3rd going into the event, had to settle for 4th place behind a quicker Merrick. Olson still looked good as he had also made the cut to the half-pipe finals, and in terms of overall winner, he still had a strong shot. Micke Alba and David Andrecht, also overall winner candidates, both had slow times in the slalom and tied for consolation points behind the 16th place cut-off mark. Although they did not make the cut in the slalom event, they both made it for the half-pipe and pool contest. Olson, Micke, and Andrecht all had to place high in 2 out of 3 events to win overall, so the point standings in the Open became more and more significant.

While the CBS crew set up to film the half-pipe, Brad Bowman, Bert LaMar, Ray Bones Rodriguez, Steve Olson, David Andrecht, and Micke Alba took their practice runs. Skating in the finals was not like skating in the qualifying rounds at all. In qualifying, the music was flowing at high decibels and the skating was easy and free. The crowd was hovering over the half-pipe, and Henry's new electronic scoreboard was flashing out the scores as the judges punched them in. The finals on Sunday were different, way different. Surprisingly, a lot of tasteful punk, New Wave and heavy metal was conspicuously absent due to the sensitive mikes CBS set up to pick up the sounds of the slides, pogo rock 'n rolls, ollie airs, hand-plants, roll-outs, and the screaming crowd. Without the music, the runs seemed uncannily quiet. The crowd didn't know how to cheer for 45 seconds straight and the silence waiting for the director's cue to start put an incredible amount of pressure on the competitors. In each case, the skaters were made to wait for the sound truck to get it together before each run, which is a small price to pay to have the event on TV.

Each skater got three 45-second runs, with the low score being thrown out and the two highest averaged together. Brad Bowman had a very bionic run, which averaged with his other best run, was enough to give him first place and his first victory in a Hester event in two years. Brad's ollie airs and the near hang-ups he refused to bail on, carried him directly into the winners circle. Right behind him was the current leader in point standings of the Hester Series after his Boulder win, Micke Alba. Micke also skated well under the pressure of the cameras and national exposure, as he forged his way into 2nd place, taking 85 points with him. In 3rd place was the ever-threatening David "the Raver" Andrecht. David skated with his usual consistency and finished a respectable third, earning him 75 points for the overall Open standings. Fourth place was Ray "Bones" Rodriguez skating well under the wing of Coach Peralta and teammate Jay Smith. Steve Olson, with a little water in his ears and slalom knees aching, placed a respectable 5th in his second performance in front of the CBS crew. In 6th place and rounding out the tough field of competition, was young, always 'on' Bert LaMar.

Part of the Pro festivities at the Open included a women's event in the pool. The girls skated aggressively, again under the very pressure filled environ of TV and spectators. Vicki Vickers, SKATEBOARDER's Female Skateboarder of the Year, was sidelined with a foot injury, and watched the goings-on from the VIP section. Local female pro Leigh Parkin showed her lines in good form and was able to skate away with 1st place. Teri Lawrence, fighting a bad case of the flu, had enough stamina and

(Below) Although Kevin Moore didn't fair so well in the pool competition, he shredded the edge of the halfpipe, tieing Gelfand in that event.





(Above)

Del Mar local John Tuisl whips a mean layback off the coping. John took a respectable 2nd in the halfpipe event.

(Opposite page)

Alan Gelfand axle stalls on the verge of becoming the most successful competitor at Del Mar — pro or amateur! Alan not only took 1st in the amateur halfpipe and pool events, but managed a 2nd in the prestigious pro pool.

THE MALLINE

by Curtis Hesselgrave

Preceding the Pro event at Del Mar were two days of intense amateur skateboard competition and one day of rollerskating. The amateur skaters came from as far away as Brazil and Japan, not to mention American amateurs from Florida, Texas, and other points east of the West Coast.

The competition kicked off on Wednesday, July 18, with elimination rounds in the five amateur divisions: 10-and-under, 11 and 12, 13 and 14, Open (15-and-over, or anyone else who wanted to compete), and women.

Let no one underestimate the skill of these amateur riders — they're great! If you had to differentiate between the current level of skating in the amateur rounds and in the pro's, the main difference is that the pro's do more complex lines, but that's about it.

Thursday's finals pitted the winners from Wednesday against each other for the final laurels.

The 10-and-under division was dominated in both pool and half-pipe by a very skilled Kelly Rosecrans. Second to Kelly in both events and skating very strongly was Eric Lau. Kelly clearly dominated in the half-pipe, beating Eric 86 to 83. But it was much closer in the pool where Kelly only edged Eric by 3/10ths of a point.

The 11 and 12 age group saw incredible skating by two riders who came all the way from Japan to compete. In the half-pipe Yasuhide Harada walked away with 1st place beating 2nd place finisher Kenny Stelmasky 86 to 84. Coming in 3rd was Yasuhide's teammate Daisuki Nakamura. Considering that these Japanese boys had only flown to the U.S. a few days before the contest, this was an excellent showing, and indicates that there is tremendous skate talent in Japan. In the 11 and 12 division pool event, Kenny Stalmasky took it with an 88.3, leaving his competition in the dust. Second behind him was Greg Chaser and 3rd was Yasuhide Harada.

The 13 and 14 division in the half-pipe was won by Mike McGill from Florida, and right behind him was John Gibson of Texas. In the third slot was Dave Zakrzonski. It was skating par excellence with an abundance of aerials, roll-ins, roll-outs, and slides. In the pool, Steve Caballero took it with a 93.6. Behind him was McGill at 88, and Allen Losi close behind with 87.6.

The next division to run was the women and Leigh Parkin, a local at Del Mar who spends 4 to 6 hours a day skating, won both pool and half-pipe events. Following Leigh in both events was Patti Hoffman who skated well, but was not quite able to match Leigh's energy.

The Open division in the half-pipe ended in a tie between Alan "ollie pop" Gelfand and Kevin Moore with 91 points each. These two skaters blew away the competition, serving notice that top level amateur competition has arrived. In the pool Alan Gelfand edged out local Kyle Jensen 95.6 to 94.3. Alan's ollie airs need to be seen to be believed. It's as if the board is glued to his feet.

The Del Mar Amateur contest was ripper. There were more people from further parts of the globe in attendance than we have seen for a long time at a skateboard contest. In all, it proved a culmination for amateur skateboard competition in an already very impressive year.

DEL MAR AMATEUR RESULTS 10-AND-UNDER HALF-PIPE 1 Kelly Rosecrans 2 Eric Lau 3 Ky Lambert 10-AND-UNDER POOL 11-AND-12 HALF-PIPE 1 Yasuhide Harada 2 Kenny Stelmasky 3 Daisuki Nakamura POOL 1 Kenny Stelmasky 2 Greg Chaser 3 Yasuhide Harada 13-AND-14 HALF-PIPE 1 Mike McGit 2 John Gloson 3 Dave Zakrzonski 1 Steve Capallere 2 Mike McGill 3 Aller Losi WOMEN HALF-PIPE 1 Leigh Parkin 2 Parti Hoffman 3 Michelle Baker POOL Leigh Parkin Patti Hoffman Julie Magrdichian OPEN HALF-PIPE 1 Alan Gelfand 2 John Tuisl 3 Kevin Moore POOL 1. Alan Gelfand Kyle Jensen Scott Foss





(Above left)
Eric Grisham was another
amateur-recently-turned-pro who helped
further stiffen the competition at Del Mar.
(Above right)

San Fernando's Shredd Repas missed the cut, yet showed a bloated, often blazing routine, which included this foot plant.

PRO RESULTS

HALFPIPE

- 1. Bowman
- 2. Alba, M.
- 3. Andrecht
- 4. Rodriguez
- 5. Olson
- 6. La Mar

POOL

- 1. Elguera
- 2. Gelfand
- 3. Andrecht
- 4. Alba, M.
- 5. Saladino
- 6. Miller

AIR

- 1. Blood
- 2. Grisham
- 3. Orton
- 4. Jensen

SLALOM

- 1. Kimbel
- 2. Evans
- 3. Merrick
- 4. Olson

WOMEN

- 1. Leigh Parkin
- 2. Brenda Devine
- 3. Teri Lawrence
- 4. Edie Robertson

determination to finish second, keeping up her reputation as one of the top skaters in the business.

The men's pool contest was fierce. Again, each skater got three runs with the top two taken and averaged together. The qualifiers for the final of the pool event were Darrell Miller, Doug "Pineapple" Saladino, Micke Alba, Alan Gelfand, Eddie Elguera, and David Andrecht. Practice lasted until the film crew was ready, and the competition started again without music. The occasional roar of the crowd broke up the otherwise silence, and the forever pending 15-second warning on their runs. Each round the pressure mounted with much at stake. Micke and Andrecht fought for a higher final placing in the pool to win the overall cash, and the rest of the field were going to maximum Hester Series points. After a long day of filming, skating under pressure, and waiting for the next start from the sound and film technicians, it seems that each round took forever, and each 45-second run an eternity. One slip meant an automatic 3-point penalty and that was enough to knock anyone out of the running. The pool area was definitely a pressure cooker of sorts as there could only be one winner.

In 6th place, after 3 runs and some of the hardest falls of the day, Darrell Miller emerged a weary, yet much respected, competitior. Darrell's laybacks were some of the best of the entire Open, and his competitive drive was as strong as any pro at the event. Needless to say, he was a major crowd favorite, often bringing the audience to their feet while throwing radical moves.

Fifth place went to Doug Saladino. Pine had just finished a national tour for the G & S team, but he still had Del Mar wired. In fact, he was consistently pulling off some of the gnarliest board slide rock 'n rolls that Del Mar had ever seen (although Darrell Miller was pushing the limits as well). All the finalists were under the same awkward conditions of no music and TV coverage, so it was anyone's guess who could do the most consistent bionic runs without falling off. Pine seemed to do his best under the circumstances.

Fourth place went to Micke Alba, keeping him number one in the Hester Series' overall point battle. Micke carried on the family tradition, since brother Steve, recovering from the same knee injury that sidelined him at Winchester, was out of the running with a 9th place finish. Each of Micke's runs was precise calculation and as error free as possible. After his good showing in the half-pipe, he couldn't take lower than 4th in the overall standings.





(Above left)

The bank slalom tested strength, control, strategy and sheer aggression... Veteran Steve Evans took a close 2nd behind aggro slalom ace Curt Kimbel.

(Above right)

Micke pulled off 4th in the pool event employing frontside layback aerials and smooth and light lines.

(Below)

David "The Raver" Andrecht, known for precise control on the coping, managed this aerial axle stall on his way to 3rd in the pool competition.



Third place belonged to "the Raver," David Andrecht. David, also finishing third in the half-pipe, skated with his patented style of axle-stalls and 'Andrecht inverts.' David proved again at Del Mar that he is one of the emerging top pros in the sport today. (A quick look at pro bowl contests over the past year proves his consistency.) The reason Andrecht finished 3rd can only by explained by mentioning two names: Elguera and Gelfand.

Traveling all the way from Florida and winning both his events in the amateur bracket was Alan Gelfand. As an amateur, he entered the pro bracket to see what he could do in the big leagues. He did plenty. After making the cut to the top 16, Alan was quick to advance once again to the next cut, which put him in the top 6. His unique 'ollie ally-oops' and 'ollie ins' (an ollie roll-in), gave him a strong plus. He floated through his routines, the board seemingly attached to this feet by some mystical power. Alan handled the pressure well and delighted the crowd. The East Coast definitely proved itself capable of creating great skaters, in as much as Alan can compete in any league he wants to.

The real thriller at Del Mar, however, was "El Gato" Eddie Elguera. Eddie's own brand of inverts. consisting of frontside handplants as high as the fence, and fakie-flip inverts into a frontside re-entry (the 'Elgario'), proved to be dependable crowd stokers. Eddie is putting the pressure on Micke heavily for top Series points, considering he didn't even enter Hester #1 and he is already in 2nd place overall after just two contests. Eddie, graduating from the ranks as top amateur this year, has got a lot of hot tricks, and there is no denying it. Eddie is shaking up a lot of the established pro skating community, and he's getting respect fast.

The battle for overall winner of the Open went to . . . a tie! When all the smoke had cleared, both Micke and Andrecht had 165 total points!

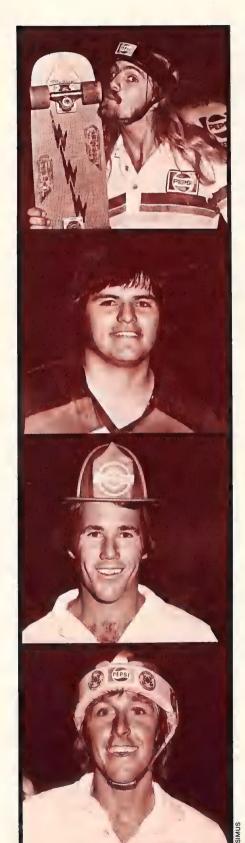
Deservingly so, the skaters decided to split up the overall purse of \$3,000, adding to whatever else was coming to them for the individual event money. Olson finished 3rd in the overall standings, but with his trip to Hawaii for his surfing efforts, he didn't seem all that upset.

Looking to the last contests of the Hester Series, there's still a lot ahead. With Whittier (Hester #4) and Upland (Hester #5) left, Eddie has a good shot at the overall title. Whether little Micke is tough enough to stand him off is yet to be seen; and Andrecht, currently in 3rd place, may still present a challenge. In any event, the Hester Series is far from over and it almost looks like the fun and hot skating is really just beginning!

The Pepsi Skateboard Team



is Alive & Well! by Wink Roberts



For three years the Pepsi Skateboard Team has visited more than 1,000 schools in Southern California. Starting September, 1979, we will be admitted into the Los Angeles City Schools program which adds another 474 schools. We visit elementary schools, junior and senior high schools, and even the USC Trojans. We entertain at football games, baseball games, state fairs, and shopping centers. We've done the A.M. Los Angeles television show along with the ABC Telethon and David Frost's Guiness Book of World Records for skateboarding. Some of our favorite demo spots are the Good Time Theater at Knotts Berry Farm and, of course, Disneyland. But nothing compares to the excitement of visiting public schools.

They know we're coming for weeks ahead so there's time to generate anticipation and enthusiasm. It's not everyday you get to see the top freestyle skaters in the world come and blaze your auditorium or gym.

I can't tell you any more without mentioning the team members. Still skating from the original team are the Ventura Beach Boys: Lonnie Toft and Gordie Lienemann. The three of us make up the Los Angeles Team. The Orange County Team is headed by Rene Carrasco and his brother Ricky Carrasco. Ricky is the World 360's

champion and was up to 115 on flat ground the last I heard. He spins for two to three hours a day creating nosebleeds from the centrifugal force that would drive Dracula wild. Also on their team is vertical and freestyle ripper Tony Jetton.

Other teams include John Ellis and Doug Sakata. They head up the San Bernardino team along with Kerry Cooper of SKATEBOARDMANIA

On special demos where the 17-foot halfpipe is used, we have the services of some incredible talent. David Hackett does some things on the halfpipe that seem impossible. Keep in mind that the ramp is only 8 feet wide and David does hand plants, rock 'n rolls, and fakie 360's. He does an elevator drop in unison with Glen Redman to start their doubles routine.

Crazy George Orton and Tony Jetton are the other halfpipe experts that provide the crowds with enough original freestyle moves on vertical to blow minds.

We can't take the halfpipe to schools because of the expense and lack of room, but the talent we have doing freestyle and skits would be enough to keep Rex Reed happy.

It's the most fantastic feeling for me to skate with Lonnie Toft and Gordie Lienemann. The students get so stoked

(Left top to bottom) Longtime Pepsi freestyler, Gordie Lienemann. Orange County Team Captain, Rene Carrasco.

Wink Roberts, in charge of the original L.A.

Ventura's Lonnie Toft is another early teammember.

(Opposite page) The Pepsi Team is still flying high . . . Rene Carrasco, skyhook air.









during our shows. Gordie makes everyone laugh with his showmanship and the tricks he does. We really wish we could share these shows with all of you SKATEBOARDER Magazine readers. It's a great feeling to make someone smile or laugh. It's so rewarding.

Perhaps I've made the team sound like world-class skaters doing nothing but tricks, so let me say this: the main objective for School Assembly program is safety. If there is one word we want them to remember for the whole day, it's the word "safety." We want them to get in the habit of wearing safety equipment. We point out the importance of safety equipment, and how it can reduce injuries . . . gloves, wrist brace, elbow pads, knee pads, tennis shoes, and helmets.

Sometimes we get a couple of kids that laugh at safety equipment but they're the ones who go home at night after a fall and stick to their sheets from abrasions, avulsions, punctures, incisions, lacerations, etc. We point this out, while on the positive side add that you can improve your skating a lot faster by not worrying about getting hurt.

At this point, I think it's appropriate to thank the manufacturers that have supported us in the past. They've been behind us and without their help we would be lost. They consist of: Dave

(Above left)

Versatile Toft pulls off a backward tail wheelie (yes, he's actually moving backward) at Marineland, California. (Above right)

Author Wink in action.

(Far left)

Gordie's freestyle routines are among the most entertaining.

(Left)

Rene demonstrates a skyhook jump over a "willing" spectator?

Morin for Kryptonic Skates and Kryptonic Wheels, Sims, Alva, Lance from Tracker Trucks, Fausto from Independent Trucks, Sandy and John from Sanjon Pads, Phil from Norcon Pads, Betty Mitchel from Van's Tennis Shoes, John Morgan from Nike Tennis Shoes, and special thanks to Eric from Val Surf. Eric helped supply equipment in emergency times, which was more than once.

As for other vital people to the program, foremost are: Jim Davie, Tom Toller and Dick Mars from the Torrance division of Pepsi Cola. Without Jim Davies' support there would be no Pepsi Team. In the School Assembly Program, Pepsi sponsors the team and furnishes a can of soda pop for every student in the school. I think Pepsi is doing a lot for the sport of skateboarding and, more recently, rollerskating.

Thanks to Pepsi we're getting to kids and demonstrating how they can reduce injuries. We're keeping them from skateboarding in unsafe and illegal areas. Hopefully we are playing a major role in the reduction of injuries and entertaining them at the same time.

Maybe we'll see you this year at your school. If you're interested in the School Assembly program, please call Wink Roberts, Pepsi Team, at (213) 456-9686. Remember — Skate safe and have fun!

The Pepsi Skateboard promotion has recently expanded to national and international proportions . . . Mike McGill gets backside air during a special demo in Carracas, Venezuela.



Veginin ees



Patti Hoffman





Scott Foss

Pat Noho

ALL AMERICAN AMATEUR SERIES, CONTEST III

Marina Del Rey August 8, 1979

As is with most amateur contests these days, there was a lot of ripping going down that Saturday at Marina's upper keyhole. Many of these skaters will turn pro in the near future no doubt. The

highlight of this contest was the 14-15 year old boys. Scott Foss and Steve Caballero, both of Powell, fought it out for the top spot. Scott won on high backside air and long rock 'n slides. Steve executed stylish frontside air and length backside air that really got the crowd excited. Geno Tocci, of Gull Wing, put in a radical routine as did Pat Noho, of Functional Design. An added

note should be given to Steve Lippman of Turning Point. He executed very high double-handed frontside air and some mean roll-ins in an overall great routine. Unfortunately, Steve fell a few times too many and placed 9th.

If the amateurs keep at the rate they're going, amateur contests will eventually surpass the pro events in terms of sheer excitement.

SERIES SPONSORS

Van's Skateboard Shoes Off Shore Sportswear

RESULTS

Girls 10-under

- 1. Heather Hall (Sims)
- 2. Katrina Tena
- 3. Sunshine Lee (Vans)

Girls 12-16

- 1. Patti Hoffman (Variflex)
- 2. Julie Madradechian (IPS)
- 3. Amy Pike (Sims)

Girls 17 - over

- 1. Elaine Poirer (Vans)
- 2. Denise Danielson
- 3. Yvonne Cucci (O'Hare)

Boys 10 - under

- 1. Ky Lambert (Variflex)
- 2. Kele Rosecrans (Vans)
- 3. Beatle Rosecrans (Vans)

Boys 11 - 13

- 1. Allen Losi (Variflex)
- 2. Mike Smith (Hobie)
- 3. Mike Hirsch (Powerflex)

Boys 14 - 15

- 1. Scott Foss (Powell)
- 2. Steve Caballero (Powell)
- 3. Geno Tocci (Gull Wing)
- 4. Pat Noho (Functional Design)
- 5. John Schaaf (Sims)
- 6. John Gibson (Caster)

Men 16 - 19

- 1. Brad Meyers (Powell)
- 2. Pat Carmody (Energy)
- Jim Gray (Powerflex)
 Freddie DeSota (Powerflex)
- 5. Eric Vinciquerra (Hobie)
- 6. John Tuisl (Gull Wing)

Men 20 - over

- 1. Rusty Morris (Variflex)
- 2. Brian Martin (Sims)
- 3. Jimi Davey

Overall Teams

- 1. Variflex (40 pts.)
- 2. Sims (30 pts.)
 - Vans (30 pts.)
- 3. Powerflex (28 pts.)



Andy Boucher



Scott Foss Monte Vallier



NORTHWEST CHALLENGE

The question has been — which country has the best Northwest skateboard team, Canada or the U.S.? After running neck 'n neck with Eastern Washington's International NW Challenge team throughout the first three matches, Olympic Skateboard Park's rollers came ahead to take top place in the final contest. The fourth and critical contest held in Burnaby, B.C. (Vancouver), made Olympia the first home for the gigantic international cup.

RESULTS

TEAM FINALS

- Western Washington, Olympic Skateboard Park, Olympia (396 points)
- Mainland, B.C., Skateboard World, Burnaby, B.C., Vancouver (380 points)
- 3. Vancouver Island, Saanich Skatewave, Victoria, B.C. (368 points)
- Eastern Washington, Tri Cities Skatepark, Kennewick, Washington (340 points)

INDIVIDUAL SCORES — FINALS (Accumulative)

Beginner — Mike Yee, Mainland, B.C., Burnaby

Intermediate — Mike Lien, Mainland, B.C., Burnaby

Expert — Rob Skala, Northwest Washington, Olympia

UPCOMING

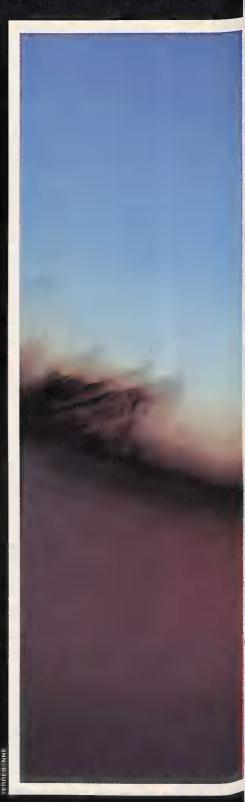
The Professional Skateboard Competition Circuit, sanctioned by the Pro Skateboard Association (PSA), will be holding evening skatepark contests through April 29, 1980. The 14 participating Southern California skateparks will together host 56 events, with each park putting on at least 4 events during the season . . . Cascade Skatepark of Baltimore, Maryland, is sponsoring the "East Coast Pro/Am Skateboard Championships" on October 20-21. Events will include bank freestyle, bank slalom, dual slalom and pool freestyle.

NEOPHYTE FLIGHT Six-year old David McGet. Chayton Valley Skatepark, Concord, GA.



FUTURE MOVER Eddin Elguera laenal peri Dri Mar.













TRAVELS WITH THE KING

PART II

by Benito S.

IF THIS IS BELGIUM, I THINK WE BLEW IT

What, a 24-hour train ride? How did we get talked into this one? We definitely weren't ready. I mean, Sweden had been too nice. Both Gothenberg and Stockholm, the people, the weather, the food, etc., had actually proven incredibly pleasant. In fact, both the King and I were willing to stay a few more days. Maybe indefinitely! We were

even contemplating undergoing the ultimate hardship of marrying a couple beautiful Swedish girls solely for the sake of obtaining citizenship. Really! But, duty calls. Belgium beckons.

Twenty-six hours, a rotten night in a sleeping car also occupied by two drunken Swedish students, a sobering afternoon with a German beauty named Claudia, and a whole lot of quaint countryside later, we arrive at the central depot, Brussels, Belgium. It's 2:00 a.m. and our local contact, who shall remain nameless, can't be reached. We flag a taxi and ask for a

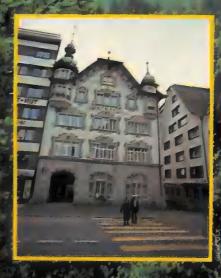
"reasonable" hotel. He snickers and takes us to a rundown place near the train tracks which, the King observes, is burning a red light outside. Too late to argue, we decide to go for it. The clerk demands the equivalent of 30 bucks in advance and wants to keep our passports until morning. This is where I put my foot down. (A valid passport is an essential item for a foreigner traveling through Europe.) We get the room anyway, which, with paint peeling off the walls, dilapidated beds, and rusting tin-enclosed shower, has to rank prominently among the worst in Europe. While checking the covers for little critters, the King half-jokingly asks, "Is this a Communist country?" "Yes," I naturally reply, "and watch what you say!"



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(Above)
Swiss national freestyle champion, Martin Eggeling.
(Left)
Martin Eggeling showed himself one of the most versatile skaters in Europe. Lake Zurich ramp.

The next morning we find out what else could go wrong. We finally connect with our Belgium contact who immediately suggests that we come back in a few days because "the kids will be out of school and skating then." Our answer is something to the effect of, "Maybe, but not this year," and "When does the next train leave?" We phone Douglas Troxler, Hobie's dealer in Northern Switzerland, who is both sympathetic to our plight and encouraged that we'll be arriving in Zurich ahead of schedule.

IF THIS IS ZURICH, WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE YESTERDAY

"Civilization again," mutters the King as our train rolls into the downtown Zurich station late that night. We are soon met by Douglas, who, though born and raised in Northern or "German" Switzerland, looks and speaks English like a native Southern Californian. Heading down the freeway toward the beautiful Lake Zurich, he fills us in on this affluent country and its skaters.





While boasting one of the highest per capita incomes in the world (where do you think the Arabs bank?), Switzerland is also socially conscious and athletically-minded. All this being especially true in the north, for the last few years skateboarding here has been organized into formal clubs, with some public funds donated for ramps, contests, etc. What's more, additional, more "considerable" support is likely when and if skateboarding is granted prestigious "sport status" with the government. The Swiss Skateboarding Association is currently hoping for the best.

The Lake Zurich residential area is a cross between old Germany, Beverly Hills, and the French Riviera; the lake itself being among the cleanest in the world due to elaborate filtering systems and heavy fines for polluters. The surrounding terrain, which we tour that next morning, goes from lush valley floor to often sharply rising mountains. Reportedly, some of these mountains are actually hollowed out for longterm habitation in case of nuclear holocaust (the Swiss are undoubtedly the best prepared nation in the world for this eventuality), while most are dotted with ski lifts in this heavily skiing-oriented country. But, as in Sweden, the summers usually run a full season and are pleasingly warm, this bringing us back to the subject of skating.

Our first evening along the lake, Douglas takes us by an old warehouse which has been lent out to the local Swiss Landsurfers Club as an informal skatepark. The center of attention here is a newly installed and well built half-pipe ramp which was constructed by local scull craftsmen with government funds. A few of the club members actually give the ramp a workout, among them 18-year-old Swiss freestyle and all-around skateboard champion, Martin Eggeling. Martin's experience in skating Southern California parks during a trip early this year, contributes to his smooth technique. More impressive, however, are his flatland moves, which though originally borrowed from his American counterparts, are creatively interpreted and linked together in quick unison.

The next morning brings us back to Zurich for a slalom practice session on the grounds of the city traffic department. Douglas explains that this extensive asphalt area was actually the site of the 1978 Swiss Championships, which proved an enormous success, attracting 5,000 paying spectators. In fact, that contest was part of the catalyst for a big-money international skate competition which had the backing of major European clothing and soft drink manufacturers and was to be held on this very site. Unfortunately, the ISA refused to send an American team





(Above)

Lake Geneva's Corina Spreiter proved one of the most spirited members of the Swiss Landsurfers Club.

Werner Graf, a local skateboarder, engineer and father, works on special skates in his spare time at Swiss Air Research. These unique slalom trucks are intended to improve traction.

(Below,

Special European Staff Command Car before King James "misplaced it" somewhere in the high Alps.



unless all expenses, including plane fares, were paid by the contest organizers. Not surprisingly, this demand proved excessive, and a promising world slalom and freestyle pro contest was cancelled.

Today's session is low-key, with a long giant slalom getting only occasional use and the heavier action coming off two kicker ramps and down identical 50-yard flatland courses. Like the Swedish, the Swiss seem to favor tight flatland runs over G.S. downhills and are likewise accomplished at the former discipline. Martin, who is rated as his country's top giant slalomer, and a few others, excel. A female member of the group, Corina Spreiter, occasionally beats the guys through her determined effort, while another teammember explains that she's even been known to wear skimpy shirt tops to distract her predominantly male competition. Oh, the clever Swiss!

TOTALLY DRY BUT RAINING IN GENEVA

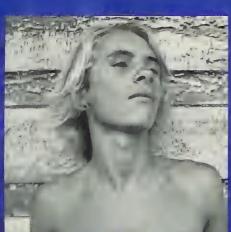
The following morning after a pleasant train ride due South, we arrive at the famous French Swiss city of Geneva. Meeting us at the station is a skateboard distributor who works with Douglas, his girlfriend and a visiting friend of their's who, in a Hang Ten, jeans, and Vans, looks like a typical Southern California skate dog. Over conversation at the nearby McDonalds (it wasn't our idea!) we learn that this interesting character just happens to be the top French verticalist, Alexis Le Pasteur, who is visiting for the day from Paris. This stroke of good luck, however, is neutralized by intermittent showers. We immediately decide to hit it for the local indoor skatepark.

Unfortunately, skateboarding in Southern Switzerland has tapered off recently, the park reduced to more or less a youth hangout. At any rate, the city's top riders can't be located and so Alexis offers to give us an idea of what the cement and wood terrain has to offer, despite not having ridden here before. Surprisingly, he shreds the tight bowl and well worn half-pipe like only a world class pro could. Both the King and I are blown away and even the locals look up occasionally toward a series of video monitors to check things out. We soon make plans to visit Paris with Alexis and take in an outdoor park named Baton Hurland which he promises has one of the best cement half-pipes in the skate world. After touring the city a bit and saying our good-byes, we are riding our Eurrail passes, once again, toward that very destination...













The first time I can ever remember talking to Jay was back in '66 at the Ocean Park Pier. His step-father Kent ran the surfboard rental concession there and Adams naturally was in the vortex of the beach scene energy conduit. Now it's 13 or so years later and Jay at 18 is truly one of the sport's seasoned veterans. Having known Adams over the years I really can't say he's changed much. He remains one of the most spontaneous, unpredictable persons I've ever encountered. Jay's always been capable of short circuiting any situation. The man's the stuff legends are made of and everything you've ever heard about him is probably true, or should be anyway.

As a skater he certainly is the "Player's Choice." Adams has won a load of contests, world titles and such, most of which he can't even remember. This lack of concern over past achievements is probably the most striking thing about Jay. He truly doesn't care that much about the tokenism of cheap ego trips or about cashing in on his abilities at the box office. (For instance, he passed on doing this interview for over four years.) Jay continues to defy the odds and skates on in his brilliant, consistently innovative manner. If you doubt any of this, just check him out sometime.















How long have you been skating? About 9 years.

Who are your sponsors now? Just Tracker Trucks.

What are your favorite Parks?
I'd say Cherry Hill was my favorite, and Marina's my second favorite. I haven't found that many parks that are unreal. These are the only 2 parks that I enjoy skating at. Seems once you ride a perfect pool, you ride something worse

and it doesn't seem that fun anymore.

What are your favorite backyard pools?

I guess the Canyon pool, and the real Dogbowl. Those are the two most fun. 'Cause we had each of those 2 pools wired. I used to have a lot of fun with Palfreyman going to the Fruit bowls.

What's the most radical thing you've ever done?
[No answer]

What's the most radical thing you've ever seen done?

Maybe Alva going down Marine Hill . . . remember that one? Passing one car, when another one was going up. But then I remember he fell that day, and he cried and said that he'd quit skateboarding forever. Remember that? Shogo ate it that day too. I think I kinda mellowed out that day. Skating seemed a lot different back then. I was almost always on a skateboard. I'd wake up, probably go surfing, then I'd come home, ride my skateboard back from the beach, all over town, then take the bus somewhere to go skating, then I'd ride home from there. Seems like you always had your skateboard with you, were always on it. That was your main way of getting around - either the bus or a skateboard. Plus we did a lot of different things: we did slaloms, we did speed runs, bankriding. And now it's mostly into poolriding skateboarding.

You miss that kind of wide spread of activity? Do you feel confined just by riding parks?

No, I don't feel confined. It feels good, but back then it seemed more a way of life, now it's more of a sport thing to do. Like a business-sport type of thing. Back then it was totally for pleasure.

That's before the magazines got to be such a power too.

The magazine I think controls it a lot. Almost all of it.

Do you think the magazine's accurate?

I think they're about — maneuver-wise — a month or so behind. By the time the magazine comes out a lot of people can do the new tricks, there are plenty more being made. It keeps going. New tricks are coming up all the time.

I think [the magazine] is pretty honest. They judge a lot on competition too. If you do good in a contest, you'll get in a magazine.

What's your life style like now?
My basic day . . . wake up, take a shower, either go to the beach or ride skateboards.

What kinds of things are important to you in life?

Í don't have too many important things. I like to surf

lot. I guess important things are getting fed everyday . . . just surviving.

How long have you lived on your own?

About a year. It's different, you know. Living with my mom was kind of like living on my own . . . I paid her money and stuff, I cooked all my own food, washed my own stuff. We were just kind of like roommates. It was like that for awhile, though I didn't have to pay her money 'til I was about 17. We were living in Hawaii, we had welfare sent to us . . . we've always been pretty poor.

Do you think this was a disadvantage?

Not really. It's a disadvantage in ways. In other ways it's an advantage too. I've got some friends that don't even know what's happening . . . they don't even know how to take care of themselves if they had to. If I got thrown out of my house, I could survive easy. I know some people that couldn't.

What do you think of punk rock?

Punk is bunk! Some punk stuff's pretty cool. I like how Jerry Valdez and them dudes trip around. Those guys make me laugh a lot. They're all freaked out, they just don't care about nothing. You could call them Nazis too. Jerry Valdez has been around a real long time. Pretty good for a "val" boy, huh? I mean they had their whole little Dogtown trip out there, but they were just vals, you know. First time I ever saw them, I went to their Viper bowl, and they totally vibed us. There was about 15 of them, and about 4 of us. They were givin' us problems, and they didn't know who we were, and we didn't know who they were. We thought we were the baddest, and they thought they were. Turned out we got to be pretty good friends after that, even though we were throwing rocks at them from the hill before we left.

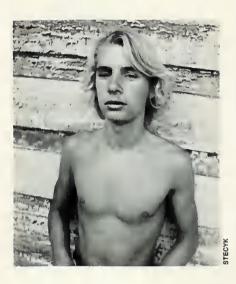
Now that you're on the subject of rowdy-ism, what other sort of rowdy things have you done? In some places your exploits are legendary. People want to know if it's true you took an old lady's wig and she was

bald, or if you can hit a target with a dirt clod at 200 yards, or if you borrowed a bicycle and rode it off the pier in flames, etc., etc.

I never did that one. Well, livin' around our area, especially when you're young, about 13, you get pretty crazy. And back then it was looser than nowadays. Ocean Park was totally insane. P.O.P. man, that place was unreal. I'm glad I got to be brought up during that time. How many people around here can say they went in there when it was totally happening? Got to go on all the rides for free.

About the Nazi thing — in the past you and other people have been known to adorn your bodies, equipment, as well as private and public property with swastikas. At one time this blew a lot of people out...

I know my mom didn't like it . . . Z-Flex didn't like it. I think they look pretty neat.



It doesn't really mean Nazi. We meant it as more of a skating trip. Kind of like punk rock, but not the weird kind of music.

Didn't you guys used to call yourselves "Skate Nazis"? Yeah, I used to call myself a "Skate Nazi" plenty of times.

So there was no political motivation behind the use of the swastika? None. I see kids in pictures from Texas with Nazi signs all over the place. They're all into it. I don't think they mean the Nazi sign as having anything to do with being against Jews; it's more or less just "go-for-it" skating and not caring about anybody else, except for your friends.

What do you think about rollerskating?

I think Duke and those guys blaze. But the rest of it — I think is a joke. I don't dig it. What do you mean by the rest of it? Just all the disco stuff and all the lame styles that they use. It just looks pretty lame. Looks totally non-surfing like to me.

What about the Dogtown scene? Was there ever one? Maybe, at one time.

is there one now? I wouldn't say so.

What happened? Everyone quit skating.

Everyone?

Almost everyone. Except for like Stacy, Shogo, me, Tony. That's just about it ... Muir's rollerskating at the beach, Constantineau's married in Hollywood, Donny Olham's surfing, Sarlo's surfing. Pratt builds surfboards, Wentzle's got a girlfriend and hangs out at the beach, Biniak's out playing golf somewhere, Flores is out there too. Wes Humpston skates, but he doesn't take it to a professional level, he's more into the design-scene company part.

Would you say that scene is dead? It's not really dead. Like before, it was kind of like a gang trip. Not really a gang, but just all of us, we stuck together skating-wise. We'd go to other places and we'd give everyone shit. We'd try to take over everywhere and it was pretty strong. Everybody was into it . . . and now nobody's into it.

Would you agree with the statement that the D.T. thing was a "movement"?

Yeah, I'd agree. For awhile it was pretty good during the Dogtown-down-South thing.

Was it commercial or noncommercial?

To the magazine, they just tried to make it a big hype; and to us it was just the things that we did.

What do you remember most about the whole thing?

The team contest trips, when we'd go stay at some motel and everybody'd get . well, we'd all party out and have fun in the contest the next day. And uh, the team meetings: I guess were kind of a drag at the time, man, but now they seem like they were pretty cool (laughs). I guess the most fun was stickin' with all the guys on the team and goin' out and finding pools and stuff. If anybody from anyplace would give you a hard time, you'd give it right back. Have all your friends there to back you up. Like I never even go lookin' for pools in backyards anymore. Ever since skateparks came out, I don't know too many people that do now. It's not like it was before.

Do you miss it?

Yeah, pretty much. It was way more casual, you know, when you go skate a backyard pool, instead of coming to a skatepark, seeing the guy at the gate go, "Hey, Joe, how's it goin'?" (mimicking) You know? Gotta check in and stuff. It's just kind of weird. Plus there's a lot of little jerks around. But that's cool. At backyard sessions I think it was way more intense. Just you and your friends. Just all the locals. That'd be it, you know. It was for sure more localized.

You think it was more progressive; did you advance faster then?

No, I don't think so. I think you learn more things in parks. You can go to a park anytime you want, all day long. At a backyard pool, we'd have certain hours. Plus parks make you wear safety equipment, and I think that's a good idea, 'cause then you don't have that much to worry about.

How bad have you been hurt?

Not that bad, I messed up my back one time. I rolled out on a backside edger, and it slid out, and my foot got caught, and I dove in and just hit the bottom. I think I tore ligaments, or something — something weird.

Is style important to you in skating? Yeah, I think style is one of the most important things. The difference between a lot of good skaters is some know a lot of hot tricks, but they haven't got style. I think the better skaters are the guys that have style.

How did you develop your style? I think the guys that influenced us most in the beginning were surfing guys. And then, as we progressed, we copied each other, too. The most important thing was trying to make it look like surfing back then 'cause there weren't as many tricks, there was more just kickturning with frontsides, backsides, and, occasionally, slides, which everyone can do now.

You feel like you guys carried it further than just copying surfing? For sure, now it's come full circle. I see surfers trying aerials and stuff. I think surfing helped out skateboarding, and I think skateboarding has helped surfing too.

You were active in the contest thing few years ago, and were real successful. Then you just shined it on and dropped out. Now you BEEM to be easing back into it. What would you say about that?

Now I ride in 'em but I'm not really into them. Before, it seems like contests were more fun. Now it's all . . . it's more serious, you know, you gotta get your act together more heavily. And if you make one little mistake, you're out of it totally. The first couple of pool contests I think were a joke, totally. They always seem to mess up somewhere, man. Like the judging will be lame, or they'll have it in shitty pool. It's always something.

What's the best contest you've ever been in?

Probably the '75 World Championships. The one I got two firsts in. That's the one I had the most fun in.

Has your attitude changed through the course of your career? No, not much at all.

What do you think the key moves in skating are now?

I think aerials are happening. They seem the most fun.

Over the years you've exhibited a highly spontaneous approach to



skating, and I think social situations too. Are you trying to be spontaneous... •• you aware of it? I don't know, I just try to skate, and the rest of it, the financial stuff, I'd rather have somebody else take care of. Some other jerk tell me what to do and stuff. I'd rather just go out and do the skating part.

Bul when you're skating, what are you going after? How do you try to do it? Are you conscious about what you're doing when you skate?

Yeah! I just try to have fun and try different things, you know. I don't like to . . . I get bored when I do the same thing over and over.

Think you never did the name thing more than two times in a row? Yeah.

Three times? Yeah.

Four?

Yeah, (laughs) it gets boring after that. Some things you got to try over and over just to learn them. But too much of the same thing gets dead.

Are you conscious of promoting yourself?

Not really. I guess, I kind of screw up. I don't try to get out there and promote myself or anything. I just try to get enough equipment. I like to have good equipment all the time, so I'll have fun, you know. Not really too into the business trip.

Why is this?

I don't know why. I just ain't really that interested.

Have there been times in your career when you were interested in business or did you just not deal with it when you could have?

Yeah, I guess. Like with this interview ... I just kept kind of putting it off. How long's it been?

it's only been four years. [Laughter]

Of all the people who were in the original skating Dogtown scene, you were undoubtedly one of the most prominent in the beginning; and commercially, at this date, you seem to have cashed in the least. Why? I don't know. I guess 'cause I'm totally lame — no (laughing).

Do you think that's true?

No . . . not the least. One of the least. I don't know why I get less. I guess 'cause people are always telling me they're going to give me something, and they fall through or something. Like all them guys from Arrow and Freebarin. They promise you a lot of stuff — big stuff, and they ain't got it. Cars, trips, money . . . all flash, no cash.

Do you have any advice for people coming up?

Just stick with something that's gonna stay around. Something good, you know, quality stuff that'll be around for awhile. Instead of just jumping to the first thing that sounds good . . . it may not last a long time.

You feel like you've been exploited in any way?

What's that, exploited?

Used . . . used by others possibly for their commercial gain.

Maybe a little bit, but not really though. No more than I use them. What the heck, most of them are trying to rip everybody off.

Have you made money out of skateboarding?







Not too much. Enough to survive . . . barely. A lot of people think they can make a lot of money, but you can't.

What do you spend your money on? Food and rent . . . and partying.

After that there's nothing left? Not really.

You got a bank account?

Yeah, now I do (laughing). I just opened one, about 3 days ago, with five hundred bucks.

Why?

'Cause I got some money finally and I wanted to save it instead of just spending it.

Who are your favorite skaters to watch?

I like Marty Grimes, Chris Strople, Steve Alba. That whole crowd's unreal. And from around here I like Polar Bear, 'cause he's radical. A lot of skaters around here are unreal. It's hard to name them.

Who's the most overrated person in skateboarding today? I'd say Alva.

Underrated?

There's too many underrated to just say one. Marty Grimes, Pineapple, all those guys. They've ripped for a long time, and they never got much credit.

Is there still any bad blood between you and the Southers?

Not at all. I have ■ lot of friends there. I stayed down there one summer, all summer long.

What do you think about clothes? Are you aware of the way you dress? I only got t-shirts, corduroy or khaki pants. That's all I've got.

Do you think skateboarding is a good life — as E pro?

It's average. I guess it's pretty good . . . I mean, what if I was stuck working in some dirty gas station . . . have grease all over my hands.

What kind of travel experiences have you had?

I've been to Canada, Mexico City, Hawaii, England, up north California, New Jersey, Florida, South Carolina maybe it was North Carolina. That's about all the places that I've been. Oh, I went to Chicago too.

Where **uld** you receive the most hospitality?

It's all pretty good when you travel different places. But I guess in England, that was the best. They took care of us really good. We stayed in a house there. The only bummer was that there wasn't anything to do after 11 o'clock. The TV's go out, the place gets dark, and it gets really cold.

How wide are your boards, and what's their construction?

They're about 31" long, anywhere from 10½-11" wide. I don't know what they're made out of. They're all different.

What do you think about the new light board trend?

It's definitely advanced the sport. It's made more tricks happen. My deck is real light. Try to get the lightest stuff possible.

How long does your average skateboard deck last you?

About 4 days, depends on if I skate hard all day, if it's ■ normal board that's light, laminated.

What about Trucks?

Tracker Trucks are good, they hold up a long time.



Wheels?

protects me.

I like to have new wheels all the time. I only use them about a week. They could last longer; I just like to have new equipment all the time.

Do you think you're hard on boards? Yeah, I'd say so.

What kind of development did you play in the Player's Choice helmet? I just talked to Tuzo and we made up the design. I think it's a good trip because it's the first helmet I've seen that was made for skating. It looks good, and feels comfortable. Plus it

At a certain point in your career I don't think you would've found anyone who thought you would be endorsing helmets.
Really.

Do you think of yourself ms a star? No.

Do other people come on to you that way?

Sometimes. I think most of 'em just kid around when they do. To some kids in some other states, we might seem like stars, I'm not really sure. I used to get letters at Z-Flex, these little fan letters and stuff. That kind used to trip me off. So you know something must be going on.

Did you read them?

Yeah. When they came.

Answer them?

No. I guess I'm mean (ha ha). Not one of them cool guys.

Do you think stardom's ruined any of your friends?

A couple.

Think it's hurt you?

Someone else might think, "that guy's a jerk, he's big-headed or something." I, myself, don't think it has. I still feel the same way about all my friends as I ever did. I don't put myself above anybody or anything, unless they're some kook, jerk, or kind of egoed-out a little.

Do you ever think about finishing school?

Maybe later, when I need to. A couple of years ago I was making a lot of money so I didn't really need to go to school. Plus I was skating almost every day. School just kind of got in my way.

Are you health conscious?

I like to stay healthy, but i'm not into it. I eat whatever I can, whatever tastes good. When I eat dinner, I like to have vegetables and meat, you know, the basics.

For your thousands of female fans, what do you look for?

I guess personality's in there. If you want a girlfriend, you've got to find a chick that you can get along with, that ain't going to go out on you with some other skate jerk, some guy that does a higher aerial or something.

What do you think about groupies?

There's some, though not too many around here. I think in different parks there are some. I mean, who would want to be called a groupie? There's a couple though.

If you were ■ girl, you wouldn't want to be a groupie?

____no! That'd be like being a val if you were a guy. There's a difference between some guy that lives in the Valley that rips and that isn't a jerk, and some kook that comes up to you and acts like the full val.

So being E "val" doesn't necessarily depend on your location?

Exactly. I know vals from Santa Monica or Venice or whatever. A val is more like a kook that doesn't know what's happening, that thinks that he does. But I'll call one of my friends a val, just messin' around.

How long have you been surfing? As long as I've been skateboarding.

Who started you out?

My step-father, Kent Sherwood, at P.O.P. Pier. I used to live in Venice, my



dad owned a surfboard rental place under the pier. I used to dig it back then, there was a lot more action around our area. They had all the southside surfers back then.

Have you always lived around the beach?

Yeah. I'd say right now is the farthest I've ever lived from the beach. It's about a mile away.

Do you think about the future? I mostly live from day to day.

Do you think about the past? Yeah, I like the past.

Do you read any magazines? Skateboarder and Surfer.

Go to movies?

Occasionally. I saw "Dawn of the Dead." I like all the violence flicks. All

the bloody ones, they're unreal. I don't have a favorite movie, or favorite song, or anything. I kinda like a lot of 'em. There's too many good ones to pick out just one.

Do you ever get in fights?

Nah. Not into it. I mean if it happens, it happens.

Do you have any plans?

I want to go back to Hawaii. I like it a lot. I'd like to go back there and surf 'cause I got a lot of good friends over there and dig it. It's a good life. It's much healthier than here. Lot more mellow. I think Hawaii should have a skatepark. There's a lot of potential. We'd do a lot of hanging out and stuff, surf whenever there's waves, but when there's no waves, a skatepark would be perfect, 'cause there's just not that many things to do compared to around here.

What would you like to get out of skateboarding?

To keep skating, make some money so I could put it away and have it for awhile. And maybe get into the business trip. If the sport stays I'd like to be into maybe teaching kids. Have a board, something like Peralta's, that kind of trip, where you have a trip going with a company that's going to last. Or maybe something where you could start a little skate coach school. Get it how skiing is.

What's your attitude towards being interviewed?

It's definitely weird. When I'm talking with all my friends I talk real freely. You know, but when you got a tape recorder held to your mouth, and a camera staring at you, you choke up a little. Like I had another interview and I said some things, then they totally changed it around, and I mean heavily. Saying things I never said.

What was that in?

Skateboard World? Anyway, it's hard to answer questions with 50-word answers. I was reading Alva's interview, just tripping out with all those long answers. You can say the same thing in five words.

What haven't we talked about?
All the "good boy" things.

What are the "good boy" things? [Mumbling answer]

Are you proud of your country? What do you think about them reinstating the draft? It's cool. Let 'em do it.

Would you go in the army if they called you?

Maybe. Depends on what I was doing at

the time. I'm sure a month ago I would have been totally all for it.

What do you think about the gas shortage?

I don't have a car so it doesn't bother me at all. Now, when the food shortage comes along, then I'll be bummed out. That'll happen pretty soon.

[Editor's Note:

At this point we run out of tape and Jay becomes perplexed, deciding that he wants to do the interview "like a white man," he ventures into the pro shop. A short while later he returns with a copy of the Olson interview and a tape marked "Alva Skate Soundz . . . Keep your hands off." We insert the tape in the recorder and forge on. Sorry Tony, but what are friends for? Now some people probably won't like the ending to this interview, so be forewarned this is exactly what happened. We're talking reality, take it or leave it, like it or not . . .]

What do you want to do now? Ask me the questions in this interview.

Alright. Have you come down from the banquet yet?

Oh yeah. Right after.

Do you feel like you need to skate? Yeah. I need to skate, because the more you skate, the better you get.

Is your skating basically a way of expressing yourself?
Next question.

Are you shy or reserved.
[No answer]

A lot of people respect you for your skating, do you feel a responsibility to them to present a certain social image? Since they emulate you, not just your skating, but how you act socially.

I know that too. I just skateboard.

How do you feel about female skaters?

I think it's an okay trip, but if I had a girlfriend, I wouldn't let her skate. Because I wouldn't want no gnarly gashes. In a way it's cool, and in other ways it's kind of lame. Skateboardin' seems more for guys — you know, gettin' slammed on the pavement and stuff.

You're normally reserved, but when I saw you pogoing . . .

I don't pogo . . . hey, let me see this.

(Adams studies the Olson interview)

Man, I can't answer these. Shine it, just send them the tape. Let's go check out the waves . . . (3)



























by Ellen Oneal and Layne Oaks

On July 21 and 22, 1979, over 10,000 spectators turned out amid clear skies and warm temperatures to watch 142 freestyle skaters during the 5th Annual Oceanside National Freestyle Contest.

Again sponsored by A.C.S., G & S, and Norcon, it was evident from the start that all of the skaters had been practicing hard for this prestigious event. Entries came from approximately 12 states and other countries, including Belgium (14), Brazil (7), and Canada (6).

The "Oceanside Contest" started as a single day affair in 1975 and was sponsored by the local Parks and Recreation Department. Their original goal was to give the city's skaters an opportunity to gain experience in competition. But in 1977, this event was expanded to two days due to the growing volume of entries from all over

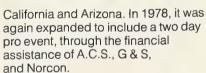
(Below)

Over-18 Sponsored Men's division winner was a very theatrical Mark Christensen. (Below right)

Travis De Arman linked major moves with fancy footwork.



Oceanside staging grounds.



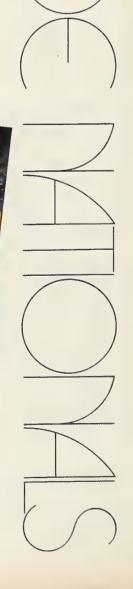
Last year's pro event was won by Doug Saladino and had \$10,000 in prize money. This year, due to an unavoidable conflict of schedules with the Del Mar Hester Pro, the sponsors decided that a novice/amateur event should be featured, breaking down into three categories for males: Independent, Novice and Sponsored Amateur; and six age groups. Six girls'/women's divisions were likewise included.

The highlights to this year's competition were numerous. Travis DeArman in the Sponsored Boys' 9-10 division, a little ripper from Dallas, Texas, had everyone stunned with his professional approach, earning him a 1st. Tony Shutts of the G & S team pulled off a one and one-half kick-flip

(Above)
Another one of the famous Barden brood,
James, took the Sponsored Boys 14-15
division.

(Above right)

As in amateur bowlriding, this year's amateur freestylists often skated on a par with the pros.



for the "Hottest trick" award. New Jersey skater Darren Burke had the most flawless routine set to music and certainly will be a threat to the pros in the future.

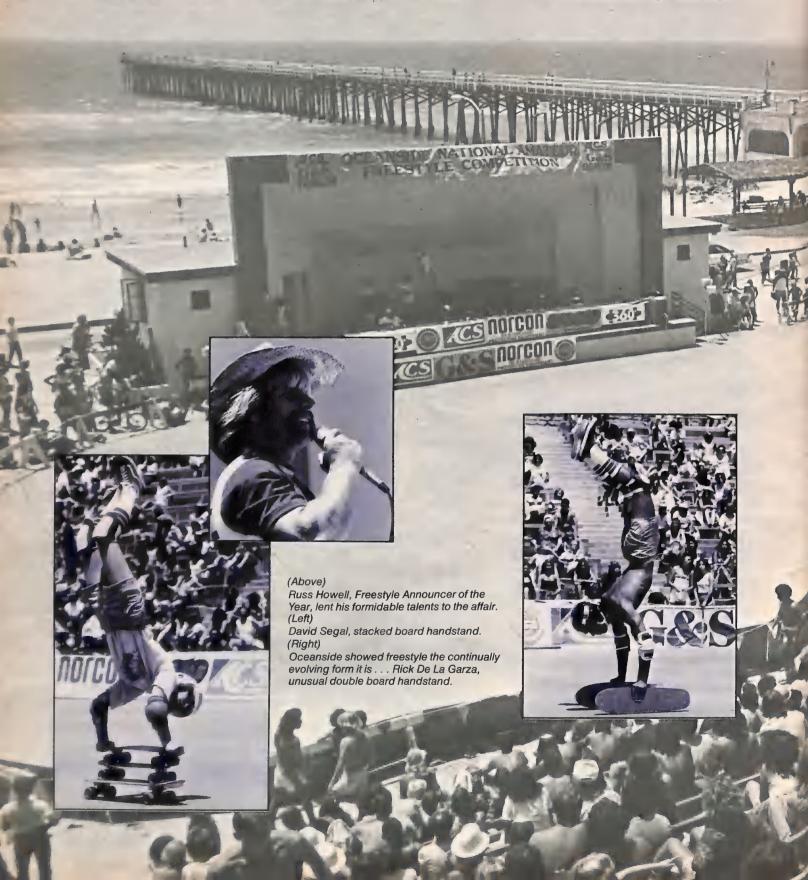
Phil Broat of Norcon presented the first William O'Connor Memorial trophy to the high point team. With the winning performance of Travis DeArman, Stuart Singer, Darren Burke, and Tony Shutts,

the Gordon & Smith team received this year's team trophy. It was very close as Hobie and Van's teams also had many finishers.

The organizers were particularly stoked to see so many girls in the competition. The climax of these events was provided by Amber Lacayo in the 8-and-under girls' division who did all the required types of maneuvers

followed by a head stand for at least 15 seconds without moving, and had the crowd roaring their approval. Also noteworthy, Lynette Fraas, sister of pro skater Bobby Fraas, had a routine which was beautiful and very feminine, while featuring a high degree of difficult maneuvers.

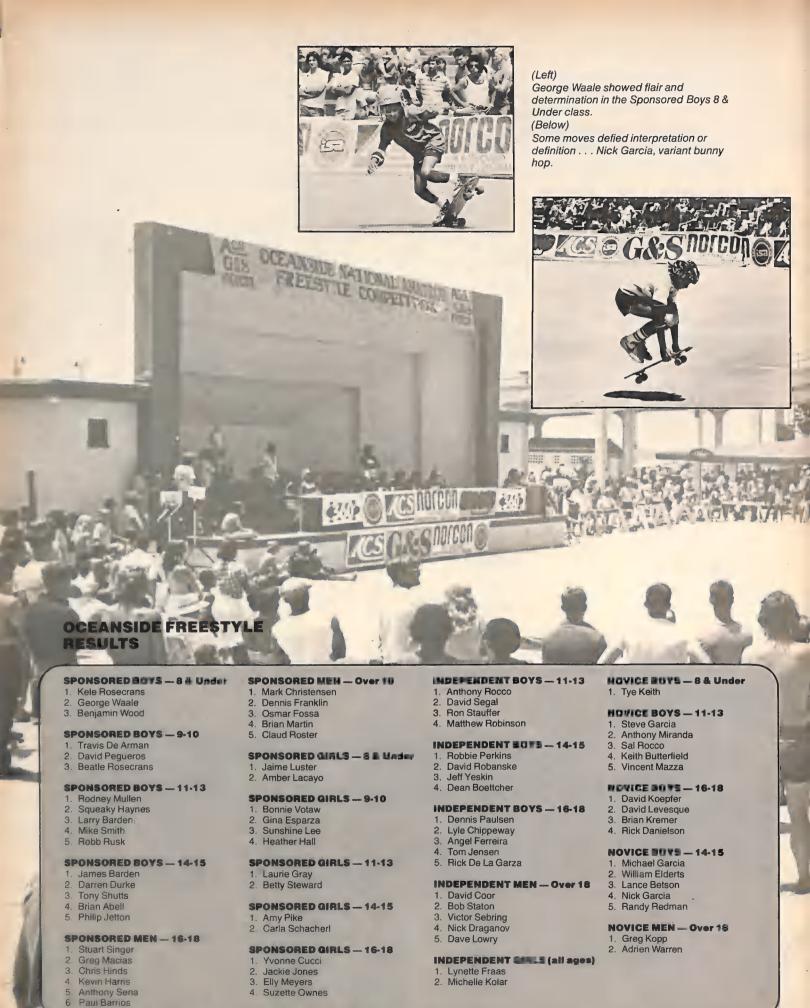
The skating ability of the international entries was extremely high, testifying to



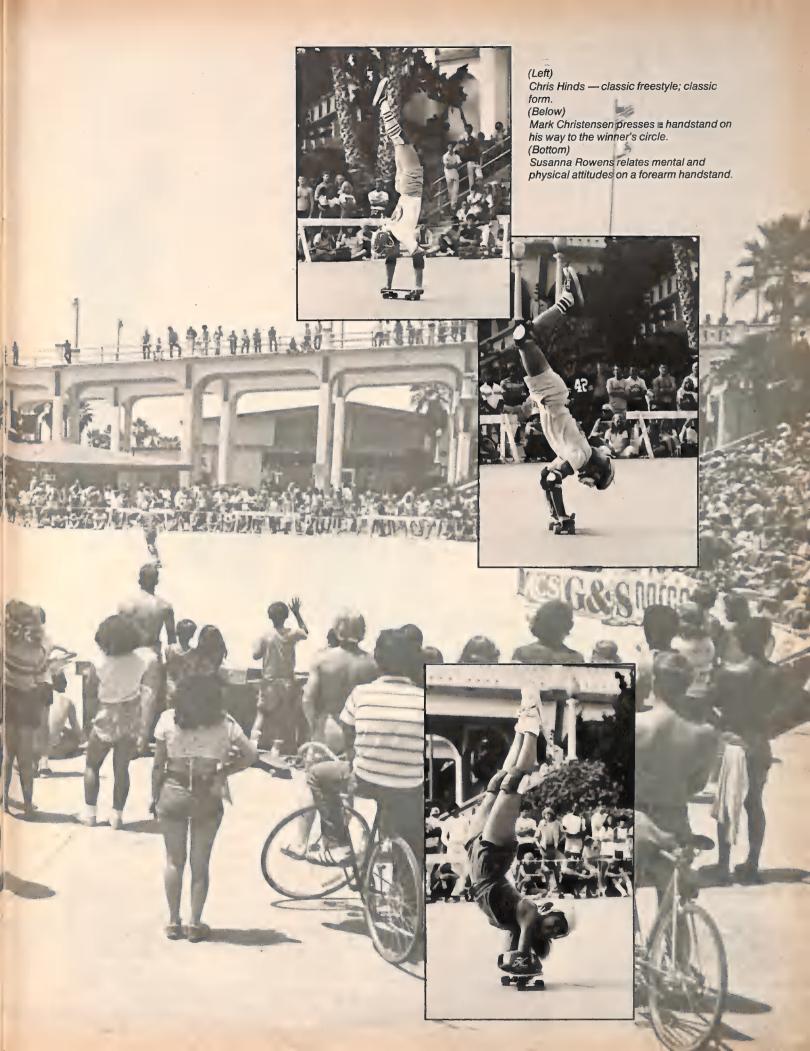
the worldwide acceptance of the sport. Without a doubt this event has established itself as the premier national skateboarding contest and the only remaining annual freestyle event in the world.

Administered by Diana Line and Fran Rusk, who are now consultants to the International Skateboard Association, this year's event was judged by Ellen Oneal, Tara Kaylor, Steve Cathey, Steve Day, and Steve Rocco, all of whom are recognized as top pro freestyle skaters. Appreciation also naturally goes out to the sponsors and the City of Oceanside, who have agreed to put on the Sixth Annual Skateboard Contest in late July or early August of 1980. year's Championships have shown, the sport has matured and the level of skating continues to increase at a phenomenal pace. Look for many future professionals to be coming from the winners at Oceanside.





4. Suzette Ownes







Alexis Le Pasteur

18 years old, rides for Benjyboards

"I'd like to enter a worldwide pro-bowl. The California level of skating won't be as high above the rest of the world as the Californians think."

Just a year or so ago, the idea of a truly international bowlriding contest as being anything but an overwhelming landslide for the Southern Californian contingent was ridiculous. The Southern California advantage has not only been one of time, but also of terrain, since the "natural" type (i.e., mostly backyard swimming pools), and the specifically engineered type (i.e., parks and ramps) have always been more plentiful. However, since then, for a variety of reasons, Floridians, Northern Californians, and even the English and Swedes, have proven the heartlanders not as invincible.

On our recent trip to Europe, James Cassimus and I came upon yet another vertical skater to add to the list of internationals who match up to U.S. standards. Regarded as the top vertman in France and just possibly on the European continent altogether, Alexis Le Pasteur impressed us as not only highly proficient and precise, but, at the same time, spontaneous and energetic. He'd work the edge hard, thrusting his arms and torso in a purely functional style, which if not classic in form, was nonetheless hot. Halfway through our trip, no one else we'd seen could touch him. We realized that Alexis did not represent a national movement, and in fact seemed a bit out of place among his peers at home park Beton Hurlant in Paris, but he was definitely of international pro caliber and an important trail blazer at that. But how?

An interview with Alexis later revealed that he *did* have a head start on his friends. A few years ago, his uncle imported English skateboards, setting him up for freestyle and slalom sessions at the popular "Trocadero," a broad roadway near the Eiffel Tower. By May of last year, Alexis was dividing his free time between bank and "rampage" riding and demos for various importers and local manufacturers. And then, a few months later, a few skateparks were built in the Paris area and "since then I've almost only been into skateparks."

Two trips to Southern California



during the fall and winter of last year further strengthened the framework of Alexis' skating and supplied direction. "I liked Alva's style and Stacy's style and they're completely different! . . . Also Ray Bones. He's so smooth, every move flows together." Alexis likewise favors "four or five English skaters" he's ridden with during regular tours in that country, among them fellow Benjyboards team members Jeremy Henderson and Marc Sinclair.

Not surprisingly, Alexis' quiver of boards is an international blend. A 25" Fiber Flex with Haftracks and Yo Yo's is used for 360's (he can do up to 29). For slalom it's a 29" carbon fiber and aluminum French-made La Cadur. And on banks and vert, Alexis has his own model Benjyboard, a 30" x 91/2" maple laminate with the "tail as wide as the nose."

Aside from decent equipment, Alexis figures good music is essential to good skating. "I always skate with music. You need rhythm to skate, mostly rock and roll. Lou Reed, Stones, Telephone . . . I listen to reggae, but mostly it's rock and roll.

A good-natured, very sociable Frenchman, Alexis is believable when he says he skates for fun. Likewise opinionated, he observes that "maybe the American skaters are too professional-oriented . . . I like being rad, but I don't do it for the cash."

Alexis plans to attend a university next year to study advertising/marketing. He nonetheless intends "to be skating for a long time to come" and feels "everybody should rip." Why? "I just like to stop and watch good skating too."

- Benito S.

Δηρινα

Alexis works a full spectrum of heavy moves into a single run. Handplant, Beton Hurlant.

(Opposite page)

"When I skate, I want everybody to like it . . . " Alexis performs on his favorite local stage, Beton Hurlant ("crying concrete"), Paris.



Dennis Agnew

16 years old, rides for Z-Products

His name has only surfaced in the pro skating scene within the last 9 months, but Dennis "Polar Bear" Agnew has been a highly respected skate talent in the Venice/Dogtown area for guite a few years.

Dennis actually started riding 7 years ago at the tail-end of the clay wheel era. Yet, like many of his comrades, his interest surged shortly thereafter. "I really got into it heavily when the new wheels came out and when we were able to start skating at places like Paul Revere, Kenter and Bellagio." And, like most of the other skaters from that area, he kept it up "because when the waves were flat, there was nothing else to do."

Polar Bear's skating progressed remarkably with the opening of the Marina Del Rey Skatepark, only a few miles from his home. The good terrain and constant input from other pro's defintely proved critical factors in the development of his style and technique.

Dennis believes that the Dogbowl at Marina is "the best pool" he's ridden so far, though he's looking forward to skating Whittier and Cherry Hill ("I've heard they have some really nice bowls"). He also wants to see more new parks with "good size full pipes for variety, and even better pools with better transitions . . . not so bumpy, something perfect!"

Polar Bear's low-key personality transforms immediately when he steps on his board. His aggressiveness in skating, as witnessed at the Gyro-Dogbowl Pro, is matched by few of his contemporaries. According to Jimmy Plumer, a longtime acquaintance, "Polar Bear is going to be the most intense rider to emerge in skating since T.A. . . . he has everything!" A typically terse Jay Adams reiterated, "Dennis rips insanely!" And Ray Allen, designer of M.D.R. Skatepark, adds, "In the Dogbowl you have to see his leading edge to believe it! Super-high extended hand plants, thirteen coping block board slides, and more.'

And so, what makes Dennis skate so hard? As he freely explains, "I like the money and traveling around to contests and meeting new people. It opens up a lot of doors and teaches you a little about life."



Even though Dennis admits that he hasn't met or seen every top skater, his favorite at this point is Jay Adams because "He's got really good style; he's super aggressive; he shreds; he blazes; he's just gnarly!" However, the most insane trick he's ever seen is Alan Gelfand's Ollie airs. "They're pretty hot," he simply remarks.

As for equipment, Dennis uses his own model Z-Board which measures 31" x 10", BSC Trucks, and Jimmy Plumer Z-Smooth Wheels. Also essential, he figures, is "good, hard rock 'n roll, like Hendrix, Nugent, and Zeppelin, adding, "I think punk is bunk!" In other words, it's heavy rock all the way, which, considering the weightiness of Polar Bear's skating, seems perfectly natural.

-Glen Friedman

(Above) Riding a critical edge. Layback, Marina.

(Opposite page)

Dennis synthesizes the best moves of his contemporaries. Ollie air, Marina.







EricGrisham

17 years old, rides for Variflex

In the skateboard arena, a place among the top elite has become increasingly difficult to reach and even harder to maintain. Eric Grisham, in the short space of a few months, has slid into that slot and he has no intentions of

going anywhere.

Born in Santa Monica, Eric later moved to the San Fernando Valley where he started skating about 2½ years ago. If fate had not moved him to the Valley, it is very possible that he could have been one of the original "Dogtowners." Either way he was destined for success. His talents were quickly noticed and he was picked up by Pro-Fire, under whose sponsorship he continued to fine-tune his skating.

Though a relatively quiet person, there is nothing subdued in Eric's style or in his approach to skating. Since his beginnings in skating, he has always been noticed for his skate-energy, and not his mouth. Eric soon moved on to the Variflex team where he quickly became a valuable addition to their ever-growing corps of skaters.

Early this year at the Reseda contest, Eric walked away with a 1st place in the pool, as well as in the cross-country. During the Escondido Championships he again came through, with a 2nd in

the pool.

Eric was a strong standout even as an amateur and his talents added a real professionalism to the whole amateur circuit. It was not long, however, before he was ready for the Pro circuit and, with the encouragement of the team, he took the step at Hester #2, at Boulder. True to his usual form, Eric adapted quickly and placed 2nd in both the pool and carving events.

Eric's stomping grounds consist of Skatercross, near his home in the Valley, and Marina skatepark, just over the hill. Pools are by far his favorite terrain, although he still enjoys warming up and "just plain staying loose" on

the banks.

Having ridden for Variflex for almost a year now, his equipment has proven itself well through both contests and in daily use. He rides a George Orton Model board with Variflex trucks and C-3 Variflex wheels.

Micke Alba and Dave Andrecht are high on Eric's list of top skaters. Dale



Smith has also been very helpful in working with him on new maneuvers as well as encouraging him in his overall skating.

A lot of good things have been happening for Eric these last few months and he's definitely stoked on the way his hard practicing has paid off. Still, not one to worry too much over the future, he is just taking each day as it comes — and giving each one his all. Perhaps that's the secret of Eric's success.

— Jim Goodrich

(Above

Eric is known for his energy . . . and where it puts him. Backside air, Marina.

(Opposite page)

Having moved up the competition ladder quickly during the last year, Eric is currently finding a place within the pro-bowl elite. Handplant, Marina.

OFF THE WALL

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS DEPT.

How unfortunate that we ever uttered the slanderous phrase "Death to Disco." Apparently the Disco Anti-Defamation League has singled OTW out for more punitive measures. Consider this quaint testimonial: "You skatepunks are years behind the times. Disco is now. You may call it [OTW] a column, but we call it garbage. Please think of your average reader in the future before you make any more ridiculous statements."... from Xanadu, N.Y., N.Y. What can we say to such a terrifying onslaught. Why our wrists just go limp thinking about it. To redeem ourselves out in polyesterland, we went into Skate Control Central's executive information suite to peruse our information banks. Unfortunately, we couldn't find any data about our "average" readers; apparently skaters don't fit the average norm. However, for your entertainment and enjoyment we offer the 100% unretouched profile of Look Magazine's average reader. Look's "prototypical purchaser" is a 33 vear old Omaha housewife and mother with one-and-a-half children. two-and-a-half cars and a husband who is an engineer earning \$27,000 annually. Rest assured Xanadu, next time we think of the disco afterlife, we'll all consider the plight of the "average reader.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN DEPT.

Just to prove we're unbiased, our crack OTW team of investigative journalists now offers our predigested critical analysis of the recent Anaheim Surf and Skate Show. True, skate fans, has there ever been so much glitter crammed into such a small space? Will the fast-buck artists of yesteryear once again find economic salvation with their eight-wheeled disco pleasure units? The good thing about the tighter times in the skateboard marketplace was that it drove the hucksters with the shoddy merchandise out. Apparently many of them have become born-again rollerskaters. Off the Wall congratulates the reputable manufacturers who weathered the storm and continue to represent and advance the art of skateboarding. Their booths represented the only semblance of sanity in an otherwise over-amped and hyped environment. OTW would like to make it clear at this point that the viewpoints expressed in this column represent only those of its staff, and not the management, etc., etc. Of course, if

the management gets too bummed, you won't be reading this anyway.

LIVING LEGENDS DEPT.

He may be mad, he may be a dog, but he's still our friend. Despite what the clowns of comicland may insinuate, Tony Alva continues to pioneer the new frontiers. After invading the fashion world with fascist fervor (i.e., supplying Flippers Inc., Saks 5th Ave., etc.). T.A., aka Alva Action, pulled down a full page documentation in the New York Times. Other Alva media exploits will be seen in upcoming issues of People, Us, Gentleman's Quarterly, and Men's Apparel News, for starters. If surreal survival clothing (as well as re-definition of the mediums) isn't your bag, then run Maddog's most recent real time activities past your sensors. For example, in Caracas, Venezuela, guess who engineered an ad photo session around an unknowing machine gun toting militiaman while wearing a spiked leather wrist piece for good measure. In Caracas you can get 3 days in jail just for running a traffic light.

INSTANT LOCAL DEPT.

David McIntyre's been low profiling it for the past few months around his new La Jolla home. Fats has frequently taken to the Shores clad in a yellow and red striped wetsuit and riding a red and yellow G & S surf stick. Big Mac claims local status on "my tax bill, my zip code, and the fact that I live further up the hill than Larry Gordon." Realizing the cataclysmic implications of true local status, we queried Shores homeboys Archie Ledterman, Henry Hester, and Lil' Buddy. Bad H, acting as spokesperson for the crew, states, "While you've got to admire any guy who thinks he can fit in wearing a vellow and red suit, we must remember that if one has to go up the hill to get to the other side, then he doesn't live there." (Ed. note: Fats' favorite film is "Big Wednesday," that epic drama of 1950's surfing and food fighting. See any patterns forming?)

QUICKIES DEPT.

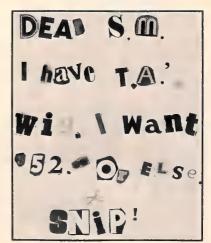
Filmster Pat Darrin recently completed a short for Warner Bros. Records. The subject matter is guitar maestro Ry Cooders new release, "Bop 'til You Drop." The real Mellow Cat assures us that Cooders' effort, the first pop album ever recorded with digital technology, is a certified classic.

The Cat had no such assurances or explanations, however, for his participation in the multi-media massacre that Hal Jepson and the Surf

Punks inflicted on the Santa Monica Civic. While Jepson showed his greatest hits in both surfing and skating celluloid, multi gold record winning engineer extraordinaire, Dennis Dragon, publically unveiled the infamous Surf Punks band. While Corky Carroll's into sensitivity, the S-Punks, true to form, exhibited none of the above. The bottom line was that it was worth the price of admission just to view the historical improbability of it all.

Beware of the Union . . . Kirk Putnam, contrary to Gregg Ayres' assertions, is not a CIA agent in the employ of a mad Belgian chemist and former war criminal. K.P., who has probably forgotten more about life than Ayres ever remembered, is now laboring in the Alva empire. Ayres still insists he saw Putnam masquerading in the service of his country. Man, we're talking way flaky.

Win Miller's reportedly still awaiting the prize he won for his slightly illicit winning entry into our De-Volved Foolish Foto Contest. Orale, ese, you got the lifts in your Volvo yet? Si, mon, we'll meet you with the prize at Atlantic and Whittier in East L.A. Carnales Stanley Washington and Art Kunkin send their best. Via con dios.



Anonymous

After Mr. Schneider got a job running an entire city in Northern California, he quickly packed up and took his number one son Douglas with him. Now while Jackson, Ca., may not be the driest environment going, it's still unmoist enough that Doug returns south to promote his usual mayhem at every opportunity. It's possible. Schneider is even madder than before. If you see this man don't loan him your car. Immediately restrain him, call his mother and send him back to his engineering studies at U.C. Davis.



Funny Foto.

Out in Babylon the old scam went something like this: You'd call or write a prominent manufacturer and claim to be one of his team riders and ask him to send you some free equipment. Unfortunately, it doesn't work too well as the El Toro Terror found out. Tsk, tsk, the big manufacturers all have team ID distribution code numbers.

More Media Input . . . Ray Ogden, Stacy Peralta, and T. Alva's interviews with the KZLA rock network will be heard by over 10 million people. How's that for spreading the word? Peralta's also scoring more exposure via his safety promo TV shot for the U.S. Surgeon General's Office.

Having "abandoned" his classical mime background and his skating career for added measure, Gunnar Haugo has taken up waterskiing with his customary passion. His current goal is 125 mph plus, which is a weighty accomplishment considering all the heavy sultanizing goin' down. The UFO Alien's next venture might involve managing Donnie Evans, the North County Axe Ace. Gunnar's calling him the next Clapton.

Glenn E. Friedman's been raging over his treatment lately in this column. Five-Fingered Friedman has now offered to trade his middle name for Ted Nugent's unlisted phone number. Any takers? . . . don't worry Ted, it will never happen here.

The Great Outdoors has completely taken over Brad Bowman's lifestyle in Mission Beach. With his daily fishing trips down the boardwalk, and his country bike slides, B.B. has become the skaters' answer to Lewis — or was it Clark? (Whichever one of them had yellow hair, a yellow car, a yellow skate

and a yellow bike.) Brad's so into it, he called up Big Tom the Godfather and tried to talk him into taking the big hike. Fortunately Sims' better logic prevailed and B.B. has returned to his usual hyperactive self. Predictably T. Sims is currently hard at work testing his high altitude snow skis.

After devastating the Anavco Hilton and appearing on the "El Superman" TV show in Venezuela, Alan Gelfand invited Jim Goodrich to come home to Florida "to determine if 80% of the world's fat people actually live in Orlando." Disney World was picked as the acid test of Gelfand's radical social theory. Thousands of miles and a few cases of Red Hots later, the pair arrived there with Kevin Peterson serving as their guide. Gelfand exhibited a profound knowledge of high places, like rollercoasters, and sought refuge on the flatter contours of Main street with his compatriots. Apparently no-handed aerials aren't what the Disney people had in mind for Space Mountain. Thinking the fare rather basic, they were amazed when bad turned to worse and they were enveloped by a torrential rainstorm. Trudging down Main Street in ankle deep water, they were confounded further when an errant lightening bolt vaporized and permanently pressed a large sculpture of Mickey Mouse into oblivion just a few feet away from where they were located. They ran into the nearest available building which happened to be a discoteque. Surveying their surroundings, the lads held a conference and decided to take their chances out in the natural elements with the death bolts. The point of this tale is that there is none . . . this is a true story.

One of Tony Jetton's favorite things to do is have his friends drive him around his block so that he can view his Porsche "from different angles." Since all of his friends are rather tired of this, they have on numerous occasions

offered their opinion of Tony's rather exaggerated car lust. Jetton invariably responds to their barbs with the lamest form of recycled 1940's humor you can't imagine ("Take my wife — please!"). In consideration of this blatant impairment, his bros. are looking to hire a gag writer for him. The criteria for employment is: all jokes should preferably be from this decade, and none can have been told less than 106,000 times. Contact Larry Gordon for auditions.

CONCESSIONAIRE OF THE MONTH

For cornering the Venezuela sticker market, Steve Rocco walks off with the prize. Now if he'll just use the proceeds from his venture to pay that \$180 phone bill he left behind at the hotel

RADICAL EXPOSES DEPT.

Hobies' Pat Casey has installed a brass plaque proclaiming one of the H-Plant men's room stalls the "McIntyre Suite."

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Which pro skater has taken hard times so seriously that he's become paranoically obsessed that the Magazine is conspiring to get him?

BUST OF THE MONTH

Dawn Dominy did, in fact, compete in a rollerskate marathon, but that's not the bust. The real lowdown is that the Dominy clan, sans Tracker patriarch Dave, appeared on TV's Family Feud with Richard Dawson. If you don't think that show is a bust, just watch it.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

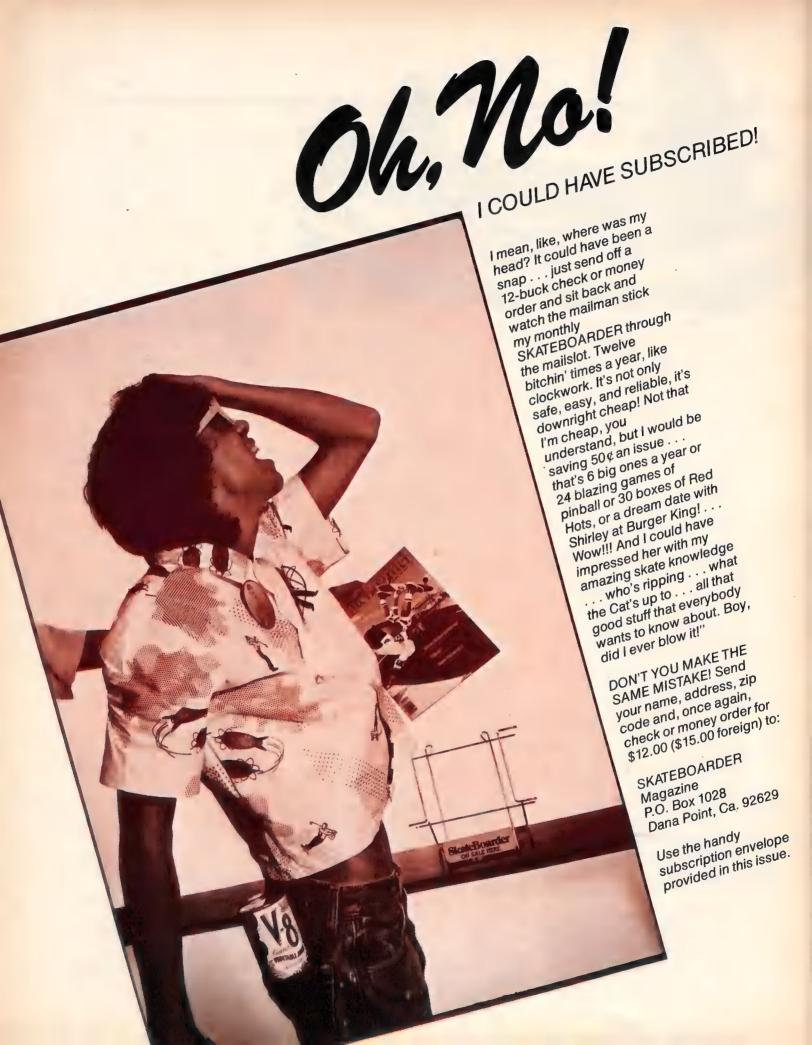
"I talk too much." — Glenn Friedman, "We agree." — Fernando, King James, J. Goodrich, Schwartz, etc.

FOOLISH FOTOS

We're giving these away right now . . . ridiculously easy clues designed to make you a winner! Instant gratification for your contest desires. Here they come. Our August subject a) has a brother, b) is a prime Badlands mover, and c) has journeyed to the elusive giant pipes. Your September clues are these: a) He knows Fibre Fats, b) he is known to hang with Gregg Ayres, and c) he has a bloated case of appreciation for his own car.

Having given those away, don't you feel foolish for having missed them already? Now, check this month's out. Clue: They're famous brothers from different mothers. First to correctly I.D. any of the above, on picture postcards please, wins the legendary Foolish Foto prizes.

Next month for sure.





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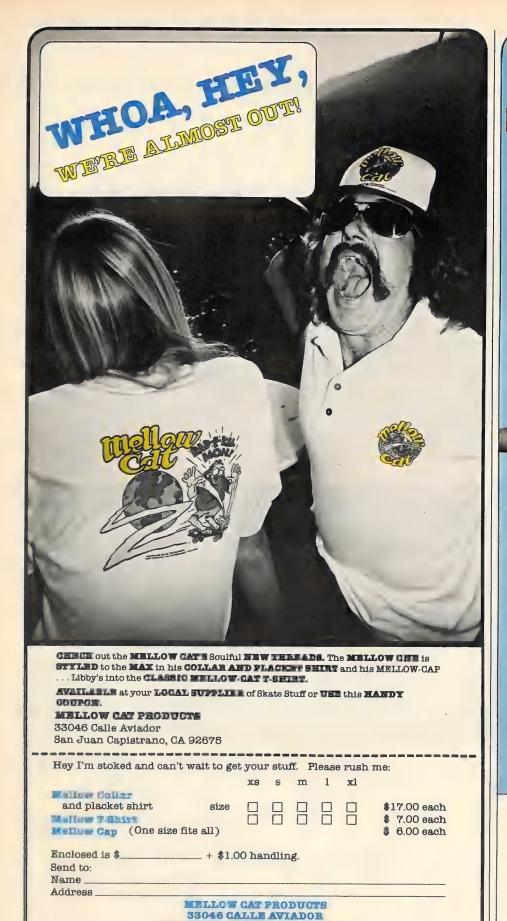
EXTRA

Talk about getting your motor working, Jimmy Plumer has been gunning his up the vertical at Marina lately and actually getting a few feet of air! So where does the amazing Mr. Plumer go from here? Sources close to Dogtown's favorite manic motorboarder





report a jump across the Santa Monica Freeway at rush hour, "because its there." Of course, Jimmy, so is the Catalina Channel — all 20 miles of it — and with the right tail wind



SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92678

Kathee Rogers, Mellow Cat Fan Club President, sez write to

her for details on how to join the "Mellow Cat Club." Become

a Mellow Cat-er and write today.

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Independent Olignm \$12.50 at 21 mm at 13.95 at 13.95 at 14.95 at 14

les two bearings and wheel apacer. Without bearings deduct \$1.50 wheel, All wheels, unless specified come with AZF bearings. DSIms Bold DSIms Silver DGMM DAdd \$8.00 per wheel for BMM Z-TBGH High Performance Bearings. DAdd per wheel \$3.50

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ELMWR Double Conical \$9.95 OCheater (Alum Core) \$11.

IN ELIMETS CIKAROO, JAY Adams Flyaway GReg. w/pinstripe \$29.95 OBlack OBlue Obluve Airbrush \$34.95 OBlack OSliver DSims White OProtec \$22.95 — sizes S-M-L or Send Head Measurement.

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4-Wheels & 2-Trucks or	Surface	2.50	4.50	5.00	10.00
Blanks or Safety Equip. only	Air	4.00	6.50	12.00	18.00
4-Wheels or 2-Trucks only	Surface	2.50	2.50	3.50	5.50
	Air	3.50	5.00	8.00	10.00
T-Shirts (each) or Acces.	Surface	1.25	. 1.75	2.00	2.25
	Air	2.00	2.75	3.25	3.50

plus mailing costs \$ Enclosed is \$. Tax S \$1.00 Optional Mailing Insurance \$ Name Address State Zip CHARGE IT: OMASTER CHARGE OVISA OC.O.D. **Expiration Date** Card Holder # _ Tei. #_





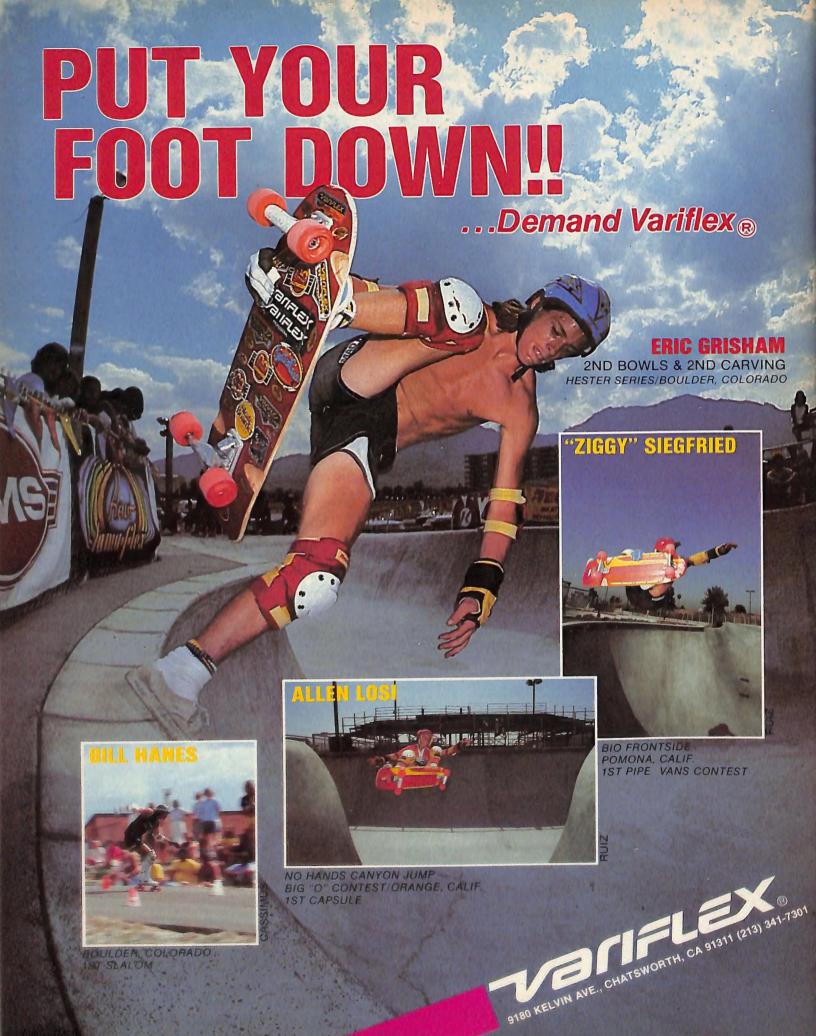






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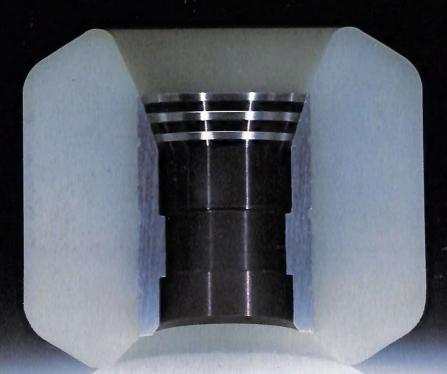
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DIMENSIONS: 65.3 MM x 57.2 MM

REBOUND: INSANE SPEED: MAXIMUM

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